M3a
c.1

the Martlet

100% stone cold whoop ass

April 8, 1999 Vol 51 Issue 31

MARTLET CLASS OF '99. THANKS FOR THE GOOD TIMES! ALWAYS R'MBER U!!! H.A.G.S. KEEP IN TOUCH HEY, "IT'S CASUAL!"

Students come out winners in B.C.'s budget

by Jamie Woods
B.C. Bureau Chief

VANCOUVER (CUP)—After last week's decision to extend a tuition fee freeze, students in British Columbia received more good news this week when the province released its budget, giving them more money for loans and additional seats in B.C.'s colleges and universities.

Finance Minister Joy McPhail announced students will also receive more than $8 million in additional funding for student loans.

The announcement came despite the government's projection of an $890 million deficit for the upcoming fiscal year.

"We have a deficit because we made a choice to improve health care and education."

"We have a deficit because we made a choice to improve health care and education," McPhail said. "We all know that education is a door to the future, and this is a door we want to keep open to all young British Columbians."

While many of those seats have been put aside for the Technical University of B.C., which is set to open next year, McPhail said several will go to other post-secondary institutions in the province.

"For us this is a good news budget," said Ed Lavalle, president of the College and Institute Educators Association. "The government addressed three concerns. It's spoken to access, the tuition freeze is extended, and student aid has grown with demand. And those are very important things."

While student leaders were generally pleased with Tuesday's fiscal plan, some said it didn't go far enough.

"We're very glad to see the tuition freeze given first priority under this government," said Rob Fleming of the University of Victoria Students' Society. "But the government has said that tuition is the major barrier to access, so hopefully we can maybe look for [a reduction] down the road."

But university administrators were not as happy.

The province's colleges and universities were only granted $1.5 million to alleviate both the lost revenue that would have come through increased tuition fees as well as costs related to inflation.

Paula Martin, a spokeswoman for the University of British Columbia, says $1.5 million isn't enough to cover UBC's budget needs.

"Clearly it's a very low amount," she said. "We believe about $12 million is needed to offset the losses from the tuition freeze across the province. Whatever our figure is it doesn't really cover the lost revenue."

Health and education were the big winners in this year's budget. Other ministries, such as Municipal Affairs, had their budgets cut by as much as $100 million.

Power of Unity in Victoria

by Darren Stewart

Sick of Victoria's anti-poverty panhandling bylaws? Want to discuss strategies of resisting globalization and voice your concerns about the environmental movement? You'll find this, and a friendly forum of like minds, at next month's Power of Unity Conference.

The Power of Unity Conference is the first of its kind, an idea developed after last summer's Active Resistance gathering in Toronto.

Conference organizer Jamie Leatham of the Power of Unity Coalition explains that the aim of the conference is to establish solidarity and build stronger ties within the international activist community.

"Our biggest goal is to get people working together on different things in different issues," said Leatham. "We want to start swapping ideas and knowledge so everybody knows what's going on, and we're not all working separately."

The organizers are bringing together different voices and personalities hoping to bring about a front to inspire a united voice for radical social change and active grassroots resistance. Participants can take part in forums, workshops and plenary sessions on a range of social and environmental issues. The conference will include videos, field trips and guest speakers from local activist groups like Together Against Poverty.

Leatham says the Power of Unity Conference is the first of its kind and explains that they developed the concept after attending last summer's Active Resistance gathering in Toronto.

"We realized that forestry and environmental issues were really connected to other social issues. We wanted to have a conference that spanned everything."

The grassroots gathering of thought and action will encourage art and education as forms of creative resistance.

To register for or participate in the conference which takes place May 12-16 in Victoria contact Jamie Leatham at 480-5250.

INSIDE

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Victoria's Big Dance — see arts page 8

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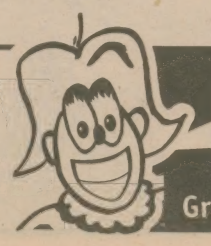

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Charismatic tutor fills theatre

by Irfan Dhalla
the Ubyssey

No one would be surprised to hear that first-year university students were paying $25 to see the latest pop idols, say Semisonic or Eagle-Eye Cherry. But $25 for a math performance? And at 8:30 on a Saturday morning?

Yes, that's the kind of drawing power that the most popular tutor on campus commands. Dan Holmes, a.k.a. Dan the Tutor, fills more seats in SUB theatre than movies like *Heavenly Creatures*.

"It just snowballed from there. We were over the fire code downstairs by double last year. We had a girl faint, the room was so hot."

Holmes offers review sessions for first-year math, physics and chemistry, as well as organic chemistry. Sessions are $25 each, but buying in bulk at Copyright reduces the price to $20. Over 180 people attended his last Math 101 session.

Holmes is forthright in estimating his earnings. "The cost of running a session like this is close to $1,000 when you factor in advertising and employees. There were 180 people today coming at approximately $20 apiece. That's $3,600 in revenue, $2,600 in profit. Most sessions are about half this size. In the spring term, I would approximate revenues close to $35,000, profits close to 20 to 25 [thousand], something like that," surmised Holmes.

The phenomenal success of his "part-time" job is astounding even to Holmes, whose "full-time" job is being a second-year medical student. "It's success is far beyond anything I've expected. It's a surprise to me that it does as well as it does," said Holmes.

His beginnings are much more modest.

"The first time I did it, I think 30 people came. And I thought, 'Gee, that's great. I covered my costs, made a little bit of money.' The next week I had 60, and the next week I had 90," said Holmes. "And then it just snowballed from there. We were over the fire code downstairs by double last year. We had a girl faint, the room was so hot."

Although surprised at his success, Holmes was quick to capitalize, moving to SUB theatre this year and expanding his course selection. He still operates a phone line (435-MATH) to offer information but now sells tickets through Copyright, the AMS photocopy centre. "I used to take phone calls to register, and I'd get like 40 phone calls a night, and I got no homework done," he says.

Holmes worries that his success will inspire imitators, but few tutors have the charisma necessary to entertain and teach 180 anxious students simultaneously. While offering sound advice on topics like trigonometric substitution integrals and integrating by parts, Holmes peppers his instruction with candy prizes (doled out whether the student knows the answer or not) and amusing tales, most related to his boarding school upbringing in Ontario.

Ultimately, Holmes' judges are his students, and they love him. Said Christa Giampa, a first-year student who hopes to become a pharmacist, "He's awesome. He speaks 'math english.' He has strategies for explaining things. Our math prof seemed to miss that this year."

Most of Holmes' students don't need his help to pass, but come to improve their grade. "We want to do better than pass. Dan gives you confidence," said first-year student Nicola Butler.

Another student who is doing much better than passing is Alex Bogues. Bogues, who studies human kinetics, says she is getting about 80 per cent in Math 101, but comes to Holmes' review sessions because she doesn't attend her math class often. "I like [my professor], but he's really condescending," said Bogues.

And there lies a hint of the conundrum. Why don't students get help from their professors or teaching assistants? Are UBC professors inept? Holmes doesn't think so.

"I think the math department is good, actually. I think there are weak profs, but I think there are good profs [too]. Dr Kiernan is an excellent prof. In chemistry, Dr Bob Perkins is a fantastic prof."

"Do I think there's a problem with education in general? Not at UBC in particular, [but] I think there's a problem with education universally, and that is that there will always be people who have such a penetrating understanding of something that they are unable to convey it in a way that a simple mind would understand," said Holmes.

Strong rakes it in after his presidential term

by Mary Vallis

The formal search for a university president may be on, but current president Dr. David Strong won't be leaving UVic's payroll anytime soon. Strong will receive a year's "administrative leave"– year off with pay– after his term as president is over.

According to Strong's contract, the president is now entitled to two years' sabattical, or administrative leave, after the completion of his second presidential term, which ends in June 2000.

Strong will definitely be taking a year off before he returns to the classroom. Discussions on his second year of eligibility will take place with senior administration officials closer to that time.

The leave, which is designed to give the outgoing president a chance to catch up on his research and prepare to return to the classroom, comes at a price tag of $135,000 per year for UVic.

Compared to the president's current salary at just over $210,000, that's small change.

UVic director of communications Bruce Kilpatrick says the paid year away from the office is commonplace for administrators on campuses across Canada.

"These people, of course, are scholars first," he said, pointing out Strong has spent 10 years away from the classroom during his years as president.

Outgoing vice-president finance Don Rowlatt will also be getting some paid time away from the office. Rowlatt is entitled to six months' administrative leave and two months of unused vacation time. As a portion of his current salary at close to $129,000, that means Rowlatt is entitled to nearly $65,000 in time away.

When they leave their administrative posts, Rowlatt will be returning to UVic's faculty of business, and Strong will be teaching for the department of earth and ocean sciences.

Search committees have been struck for both positions and will be continuing over the summer.

COVER: the 98/99 Martlet Crew is...
Top dude is: Bruce 'big bird' Arthur **Top row:** Meesha Chan, David Low, Miranda Post, Patti Edgar, Lyndsay Sung
Middle row: Sarah Leipciger, Martlet baby Morganne, Nick 'O' Slayer Teen, Rachel Kiers, Mary 'Rollers' Vallis
Bottom row: Christina Harris, Holland Gidney, Darren Stewart, Morgan 'what am I doing here?' Stewart, Käthe Lemon

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YOUTH OPTIONS BC

On the Spot

What's your ideal summer job?

Salma Jamal 3rd-year computer science

"I already have one. It's working at a vet hospital. Animals are therapeutic."

Rajesh Hatkar 1st-year MBA

"Investment banking. I like it."

Olivier "J" 4th-year French

"I don't like to work, but I still need money. I want a well-paid job, but I want to do the minimum. A union job."

Keegan Cornell 2nd-year science

"Um...I'd rather not work in the summer."

Elected official crosses the line

by Sarah Leipciger and Mary Vallis

It was Good Friday, a holiday, a difficult day to spend at home.

Victoria MP David Anderson was not at home that day. Instead, he enjoyed a movie at the Capitol Six Theatre downtown, crossing the line of locked-out projectionists who have been picketing in front of Victoria theatres since Dec 5.

Anderson was not available for comment, but his special assistant Howard Markson said, "If one never ever crossed the picket lines, one would take the labour side on every issue."

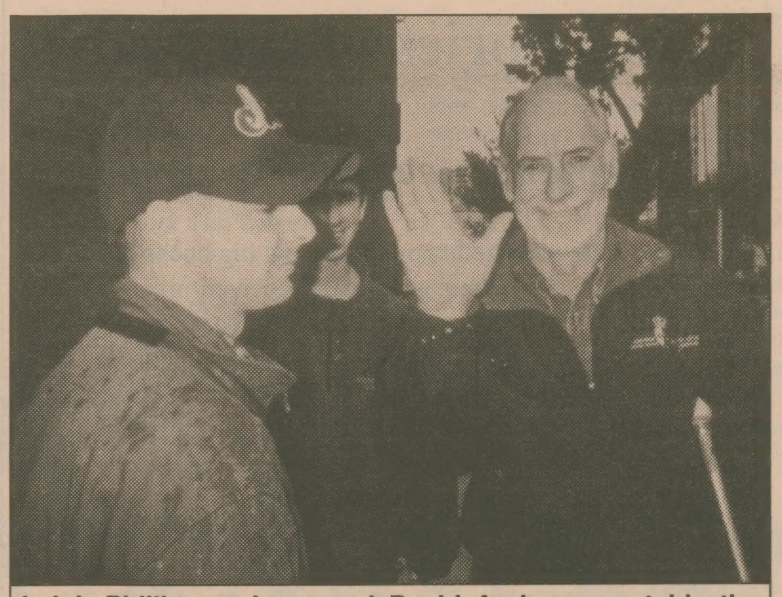
After four months of pickets in the rain, the issue remains that Sony and Viacom have proposed a 60 per cent cut in pay for all B.C. projectionists.

According to Leigh Phillips, a member of the International Socialists' UVic chapter, a group that is standing in solidarity with the projectionists on the picket line, Anderson said the dispute had been going on for too long.

"I thought, 'What a scab,'" said Phillips, who confronted Anderson on his way out of the theatre's side door. "I found it quite shocking that a Liberal MP would cross the picket line."

Projectionist Rick Cavan, who was in front of the theatre when Anderson showed up, said Capitol Six management tried to sneak Anderson out of a back door after the 12:45 p.m. showing ended, but the projectionists found him nonetheless.

"I told him I was disappointed that he crossed," said Cavan.



Leigh Phillips and a proud David Anderson outside the Capitol Six Theatre after Anderson enjoyed a viewing of *Matrix* on Good Friday.

photo contributed by projectionist Rick Cavan

Acadia University to build world-class research complex

by Marla Landers
Athenaeum

WOLFVILLE, N.B. (CUP)—Acadia University will soon be home to a world-class environmental sciences complex thanks to a donation from one of Canada's wealthiest families.

The eight-acre Environmental Sciences Research Centre, made possible through a donation from New Brunswick's Irving family, will facilitate research in conservation biology, the ecology of wetlands and the effects of global warming in Eastern Canada.

"It's an absolutely magnificent contribution to student life at Acadia," university president Kelvin Ogilvie said when the gift was announced last Friday.

He added he expects the complex to attract potential students to Acadia.

"I'm pleased to be here," said Arthur Irving, who graduated from Acadia and serves as the school's chancellor, when plans for the complex were unveiled. "It's a great opportunity to help Acadia. We all have to work together. That's why I'm here at Acadia today."

Along with greenhouses of flora native to northeastern North America, the complex will house a fully wired, high-tech classroom.

The research centre will also include a botanical garden, public meeting area and nature trail, lawn area and brook.

Chris Houston, president of the Acadia Students' Union, said he was impressed by the plans.

"It's an incredibly generous donation," he said. "I think it's something everyone on campus can benefit from. What a great way to end the year."

Wolfville Mayor Bob Stead was also full of praise for the Environmental Sciences Research Centre, which is expected to take up to two years to construct.

"This is one of the most wonderful things I've witnessed in this community, and I've been here for 30 years," he said.

Some students, however, were not so impressed by Irving's donation.

Fourth-year student Graham Watts distributed literature at the meeting to announce the complex, outlining past environmental mishaps by Atlantic gasoline giant Irving Oil Limited.

"An opposing voice needed to be raised," Watts said, citing the 1970 sinking of the company's "Irving Whale" barge in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Tragedy for UVic student

by Sarah Leipciger

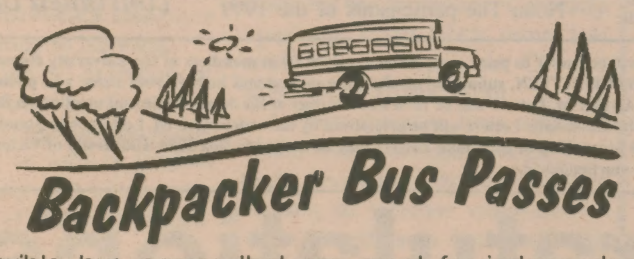
A body found on Mt. Doug Tuesday, March 30 has been identified as missing UVic student Steven McLaughlin.

The exact cause of death is as yet unknown, but according to Detective Sergeant Walter Craveiro of the Saanich intelligence unit, autopsy reports are expected next week.

McLaughlin, who volunteered at CFUV and worked in the SUB and MacPherson Library, went missing without a trace on December 22, 1998.

According to Craveiro, a hiker found McLaughlin's wallet, knapsack and jacket—police discovered his body after these findings were reported.

The body was estimated to be on Mt. Doug for just over three months.



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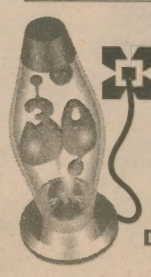

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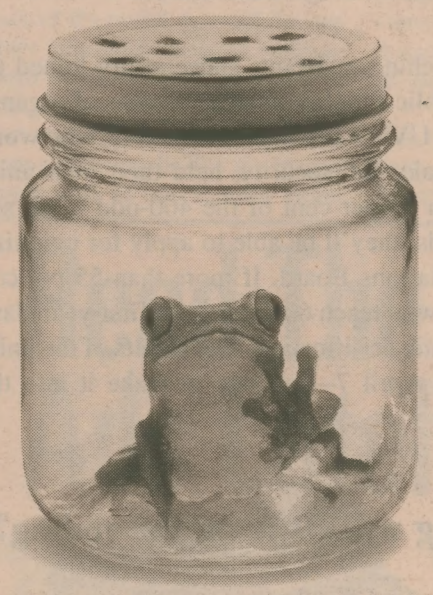

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EDITORIAL

Top stories of the year

Corporations cozy up to campus

Big corporations were happy to dish out big bucks to the university this year, but their generosity received mixed reviews from students. In late summer Pepsi signed a contract with both UVic and the UVSS, giving the company exclusive rights to sell its beverages on campus. Students didn't have much of a say in that deal but were more vocal about a proposal by the university's Board of Governors to name the classrooms in the Centre for Innovative Teaching after the building's corporate donors. In February, after much debate, the BoG voted to name all but one of the classrooms after individuals within the donor organizations. Multinational lumber giant Fletcher Challenge was the only corporation who chose to keep their company's name on the list. The drive for campus corporatization was also humbled in November when UVic's senate turned down a proposed $2,000 scholarship offered by Shell Canada. The motion to turn down the scholarship was put forward by John Fraser, student senator for the university's science faculty, who cited the company's business practices in Nigeria.

Poverty bashing

Last fall the business community asked city council to give more "teeth" to its Code of Conduct, and more "teeth" it got. Recently council approved an anti-panhandling bylaw that should be official by the summer. This bylaw could mean that the homeless will have to serve the community or go through mandatory counseling if they get caught asking for money in "unsuitable" places—places that make tourists feel uncomfortable, like near bank machines.

About five weeks ago, the Victoria Business Improvement Association (BIA) asked council for $20,000 the same day that Bent Nail, a make-work program of the Victoria Street Community Association, asked for enough money to fund a small advertising budget. The BIA received their grant promptly, which was to fund a youth works program that would employ four kids for one year; Bent Nail is still waiting to hear back from council.

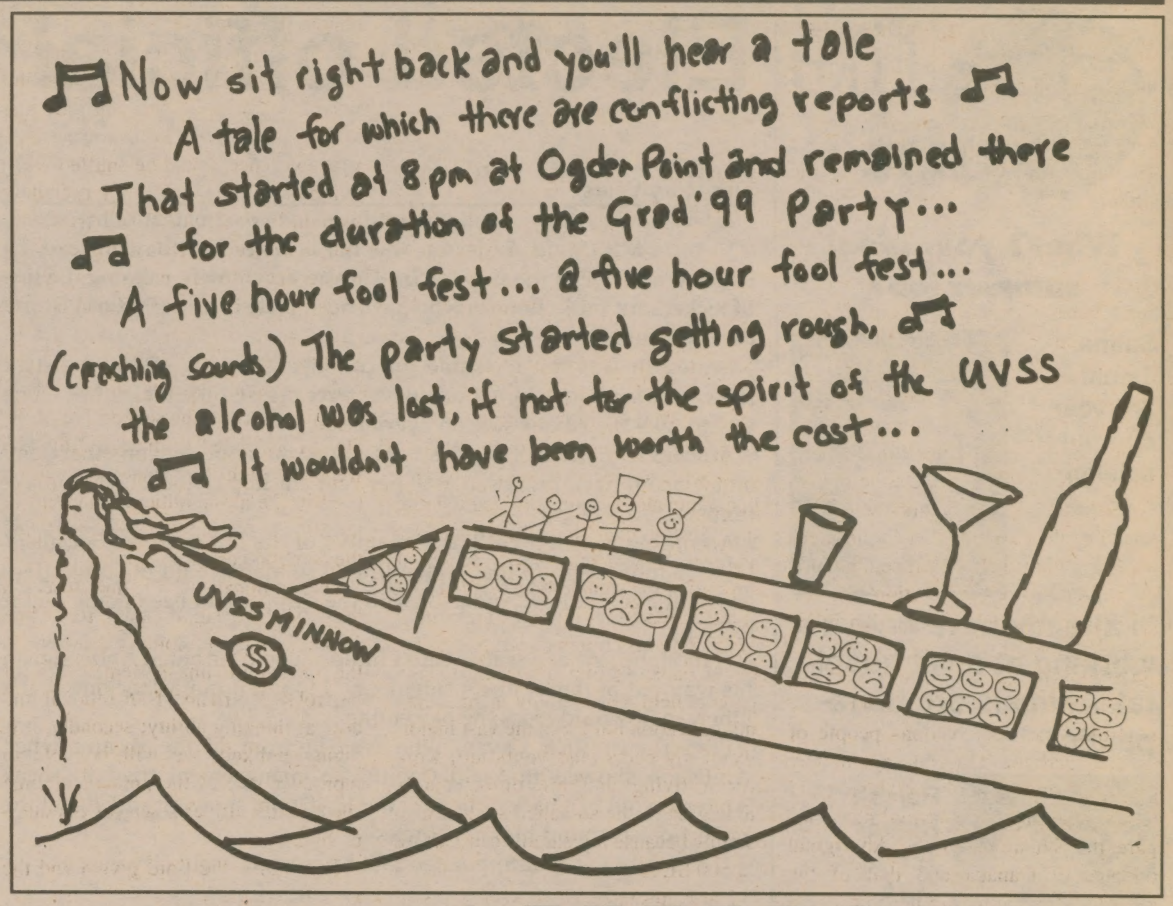
The drive to unionize

Last year UVic's teaching assistants successfully joined the Canadian Union of Public Employees after months of organizing. This year many of UVic's sessional instructors, who worry about low pay and shaky job security, held their own union drive. If the maximum 45 per cent of the 400-odd UVic sessionals sign union cards, they'll be able to apply for unionization to the Labour Relations Board. If more than 55 per cent sign, UVic sessionals, who teach 60 per cent of first-year classes, will receive automatic certification. The results of the union drive will be released April 7—too late to make it into this week's paper.

Why not hang worms from the ceiling?

Activity in the Student Union Building (SUB) stupefied students once again this year with two hotly debated items—worms and mobiles. Christine Scott's permanent sculpture "Series 1" was hung from the steel beams of the building in November. It was commissioned by the SUB Completion Committee to improve the building's monotonous white atmosphere, but some students argued it was too high-up in the air to even notice. Even more controversial was a proposal by UVSS director-at-large Scott Rogers to introduce a worm composter to the building's resource centre. The worms were rejected after extensive student consultations by the SUB Completion Committee.

Editorial topics are decided upon by staff at editorial meetings and are written by one or more staff members. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of all staff.


Now sit right back and you'll hear a tale
A tale for which there are conflicting reports
That started at 8 pm at Ogden Point and remained there
for the duration of the Grad '99 Party...
A five hour fool fest... a five hour fool fest...
(crashing sounds) The party started getting rough,
the alcohol was last, if not for the spirit of the UVSS
It wouldn't have been worth the cost...
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LETTERS

CUP story inaccurate, say local PCs

Editors,

Your article on the removal of three young Tory's membership of the Nova Scotia PC Youth Association ("PC youth say expulsion unrelated to United Alternative" the Martlet, March 18, 1999) was misleading and missing some key facts.

First, your report indicated Clinton Desveaux, has his membership stripped by the NSPCYA's Executives was not correct. Mr. Desveaux has NEVER been a card carrying member of the Nova Scotia PC Youth Association (NSPCYA) nor the (National) PC Youth Federation (PCYF). The reality is the NSPCYA has nothing to do with his so called "membership" and could not "kick him out of the association" as he has never been a part of the NSPCYA.

Second, Kevin Lacey's PC membership has never been revoked. He is still a member in good standing within the NSPCYA.

Third, the removal of Mr. Barnes' NSPCYA membership has nothing to do with any level of the federal PC Party nor the Nova Scotia PC Party (the senior party). The NSPCYA is an independent organization operated by their elected executives.

Fourth, Paul Barnes, the former President of the NSPCYA, has his membership repealed due to his questionable leadership and misrepresentation of the NSPCYA's interests at the United Alternative Convention. Mr. Barnes' leadership was first reviewed last October (long before the UA convention). At the same time, his performance as the President of the NSPCYA was being questioned by his executives. In addition, Mr. Barnes attached his title, President of the NSPCYA, when he was moving a motion (Resolution #5 in the UA Convention) which outcome may create a new national political party. Besides, Mr. Barnes has been publicly endorsing the UA movement AND the new UA party. Most importantly, the motion Mr. Barnes moved was not endorsed by the NSPCYA nor the PCYF or any organizations of the PC Party (both provincial and federal), and that particular action contradicts the Constitution of the NSPCYA's Mission Statement:

"The mission of the Association is to encourage the active participation of young Nova Scotians in the Progressive Conservative Party and in the election of Progressive Conservative candidates for office,"

Although Mr. Barnes's NSPCYA's membership has been revoked, he is still a member in good standing, from the Party's prospective, within the Nova Scotia PC Party, PCYF, and the federal PC Party.

I hope the above information can clarify some misunderstanding about the "youth membership expulsion" incident within the NSPCYA.

Note: The participants of the 1999 UA conference voted in favor of creating a new federal political party.

—Daniel Cheung
President, University of Victoria
PC Youth Association

Tibet defended

Editors,

I'd like to make a couple of short remarks regarding the letter from Karen Duder and Christie Shaw in the March 25 Martlet.

First, some years ago the Canada Tibet Committee chose to start our Peace Walk at (or walk by) the Gates of Harmonious Interest for specific reasons. We consider the Chinese people and culture as victims of the same brutal practices that have been visited upon the Tibetans, so, in a show of solidarity with them, take our Peace Walk by the most visible centre of Chinese culture in Victoria. As His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has said, Tibetans and Tibet support groups must reach out wherever possible to engage the Chinese community and show our support for our common cause.

This should always be done with compassion and in a peaceful manner, but does not, I believe, mean that we should not loudly raise our voices with the message. In both English and Chinese, we have written the local

continued on next page

The Martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavor to print every letter received from members of the university community, with priority to undergraduate students. Letters must be TYPEWRITTEN, submitted on disk or e-mailed and include your name and phone number for verification. LETTERS MUST BE 200 WORDS MAXIMUM. Letters will be reviewed for libel at _the Martlet_ editorial meeting on the week of publication. Deadline for letters is Friday noon before publication date. Letters will be prioritized by the order received. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed. Letters will not be edited for spelling or grammar. Letters may be mailed to Box 3035, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, V8W 3P3, dropped off at SUB B011 or emailed to martlet@uvic.ca

congratulations
to
the
GRADUATING CLASS
of 1999

continued from previous page

merchants that we do not direct our protest at them, but act to raise awareness of the common suffering of Tibetans and Chinese. Maybe the authors of the letter feel they need to read some kind of 'anti-Asian' sentiment into this for their own benefit (aren't the Tibetans 'Asian' as well?) but I believe they, with their lengthy analysis, are way off the mark. I think it would be useful for them to have a discussion with the tireless advocate of Chinese-Tibetan dialogue, Victor Chan, of the 'China Tibet Initiative', in Vancouver on this issue. On the invitation of the UVic Students for a Free Tibet and the Canada Tibet Committee, Mr. Chan did a well-advertised, but not so well-attended, presentation at UVic last year, called 'Tibet Through Chinese Eyes'. I guess we should consider inviting him back.

As for their comments on my remark regarding the First Nations people of Canada and the Tibetans, again they jump to unwarented conclusions. I said, in passing, that I could not compare the situations of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada and that of the Tibetans. I certainly did not imply that one or the other suffered more oppression. I indicated that the modern day situation is different, which it is. The conditions these Nations have suffered under would take far longer to discuss, and, since we were at a rally that was concerned with the brutal, active, ongoing genocidal behavior of a totalitarian regime towards the Tibetans I was not about to discuss it (and, if they didn't notice, it was very cold and we still had other speakers, one of whom did discuss some of the issues).

—Dave O'Neil
Canada Tibet Committee

Look what you've started, Chris!

Editors,

I would very much like to direct my comments to the vain and insufferable prose written by one Chris Jericho in the 25th of March's issue of the Martlet. Well my imprudent friend who is giving an otherwise commendable commerce/engineering student body a bad name and is ironically maintaining the stereotype that he professes against, As you may have guessed, I am one of the soon to be degraded Arts students who does not have the benefit of "having his entire education paid for by the bank of Mom and Dad." Yes my parents help considerably in financing my education but I like the vast majority of my peers (and yours too) work for a living and are unfortunately indulging in the so-called student loan simply because my parents can't afford 'a 500 SL'.

I also hesitated about voting yes to the U-Pass for basically the same reasons you've so eloquently represented: namely I have money too and other means of transportation. But unlike you I think that helping out my fellow students is a worthwhile endeavor, therefore, I voted yes. I probably won't use it either, but at least I don't count myself amongst the morally destitute who've sold their integrity in a Faustian worship to the god of materialism, a process that is sickening to observe in your case.

I welcome the extra 88 dollars of tuition because it's a worthy cause and would much rather take the bus and work a Mcjob than be a drone who's very existence would be snuffed without parental support, but I definitely wouldn't ask if 'you'd like fries with that' if we ever met face to face . I'd sooner eat the McDonalds fries myself.

—Kevin Groves

Editors,

Recent evidence has shown that a structural flaw in the seat design of the 500 SL is linked to male sterility. As well, research has linked chemicals used in the air-conditioning system of the 500 SL to brain-cell deterioration in the cerebral cortex.

The implications of this research bear twofold significance for Chris Jericho: firstly, prolonged exposure to the air-conditioning system in his car has robbed Jericho of all rational and critical thinking ability; secondly, it is highly unlikely we will be able to reproduce due to the amount of time spent in the driver's seat of his automobile.

Thankfully, the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away.

—Graeme Baerg

Racism issue wages on

Editors,

Racism. most of the time it is not he race that bothers people, it is the culture. I know there are a lot of idiots out there who don't seem to realize that they could have been born black or white or blue. I would love to see some of those racist pigs go to another part of the world and live with people all of a different race and see how their lives and beliefs would change. Most of the time hate emerges from disagreements over ethics and values. I grew up as a visible minority in Kenya for the first 18 years of my life. I had friends of course, but no one listened to my views about the values I believed were important. I didn't give a damn anyway, in fact I learned from it. If I went back and lived my life over, I wouldn't change a thing. Everyone there lived in their own world.No one ever said anything racist to me because they knew beat them verbally or physically if they did. No one supported me when I disagreed with someone's opinion. You know why? Because they were afraid to believe someone could actually question their values. Everyone wants to be right all of the time, including me. No one wants anyone to disagree with them. Between different cultures and religions, clashes and morals and beliefs occur all the time. What the hell do you think is going on in Kosovo? It's 'white' people against 'white' people. It has nothing to do with race. No one wants to discover that the values they believed growing up are wrong. We can never forget what humans are capable of when it comes to hate. It's time to grow up and start admitting when we are wrong, and accepting other people's beliefs and respecting them. And what are the chances of that? Almost zero. As for the people that hurt the ducks, I have three simple words, GET A LIFE.

—S. Kaur

Student Voice

Why UVic should de-invest in West Fraser

UVic is a paradoxical establishment. On one hand it represents an investment in the future, a centre for the development of knowledge and an understanding of our world. Yet on the other hand, this university actively supports those who plunder the living Earth.

Most of the northern coast of B.C. has yet to be hammered hard by industrial logging, and there remains the world's largest network of pristine coastal temperate rainforest. This forest type covers only about .02 per cent of the planet's land surface. Our forests are in many ways unique. The species' rich valley must remain linked in order to provide habitat for the coastal grizzly bear to survive. Known as the Great Bear Rainforest, these lush valleys are but small enclaves amid high ranges of rock and ice, compromising only about 7 per cent of a mostly barren landscape. These forests will never be fully understood, yet certainly have an integral role in the biosphere, regulating climate and producing salmon by the millions to nourish the sea.

Industrial logging interests do not value the diversity of ecosystem, the survival of the grizzly bear or the global importance of rare habitat. They do not value the future for a diverse, sustainable economy for B.C. or a variety of forest uses. The legacy of clearcutting is of salmon unable to spawn, loss of soil and the transition of an ecosystem supporting an abundance of species to a biological wasteland, geared towards the production of timber. Sadly, as of now our government lacks the will or wisdom to stop this and continues to act in the interests of the few. They support a future in which protected areas, a shadow of their former selves, are separated by biologically poor lumber farms. The industrial vision is to replace the wild salmon lost to logging with those produced in fish farms. The industrial vision is to replace the wild salmon lost to logging with those produced in fish farms.

One would expect UVic to be enlightened to the extent of understanding the errors of liquidating old-growth forests. One would expect an institution built around preparing young minds and society as a whole for the future to be actively engaged in protecting that which ensures the long-term stability of this province. One would not expect UVic to share a vision of the future with those blinded by the prospect of short term profits at the expense of species, communities, our province and the world at large.

It comes as a surprise that this university actively supports the rapid distribution of what remains of B.C.'s old growth coastal forests. To be fair, not every element of the university takes this position. Certain professors are active in the conservation movement. Yet at a higher level, those sentiments are not shared. Included in UVic's investment portfolio (rumoured as a whole to be worth about $78 million) is West Fraser Timber. They own the rights to 17 valleys in the Great Bear and are in the process of building roads as rapidly as possible. A roaded valley is open to clearcutting, hunting and degradations of other kinds.

It is shocking to know that as students we represent an entity looking to profit from the destruction of irreplaceable habitats, which are increasingly valuable on this planet as it suffers the abuses of ill-applied technology. It seems up to students to demand that our university pull its money out of West Fraser. As a centre of progressive thought, a more suitable role would be to advocate against continued liquidation and promote alternative, sustainable and ethical forms of development.

—Tim Harvey

Got something on your mind? Student Voice is a venue for students and other members of the campus community to air their indvidual opinions. Submissions must be in before Monday at noon, and are voted or vetoed by staff at Monday Editorial meetings. Make it around around 350 words (if you can).

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UVSS

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2:30 matinee, 7:10 & 9:15

The Theory of Flight

LATENITE
Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery
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Sunday, Monday & Tuesday
7:00 only

The Red Violin

9:25 only

A Simple Plan

Wednesday & Thurday
7:10 & 9:15

Gods & Monsters

the Martlet
51 years of

Long hair and braces, dude

Quote of the Week:

"We like to have our political fingers wherever they need to be."

—Morgan Stewart, incoming UVSS chair, on the fact director-at-large Matt Markson's dad is a special assistant to Liberal MP David Anderson.

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Taser: Myth

Victoria's foray into new weaponry may shock yo

Police cornered a dangerously violent woman in a Victoria bathroom last month. High on drugs and not responding to pain, she wasn't affected by pepper spray. She began to threaten suicide, and the officers were trying to decide when to go in after her—risking injury to the woman and themselves. She decided for them. The woman burst through the door and rushed the officers with a pair of scissors in her hand. But the officers stopped her cold and were able to handcuff her calmly. With some help from Victoria police's new Taser unit, the incident ended without injury.

According to Sgt. Darren Laur of the Victoria police, the peaceful end to this situation was only realistic because of the Taser, a new weapon his department is test-running. The Taser shoots two electrically charged barbs that catch into the clothing of a subject up to four metres away and deliver a debilitating electrical charge intended to override the brain's message to the muscles, knocking the person to the ground.

"The police officer supervisor said right in his report that if it wasn't for the Taser there could have been dire consequences," said Laur. "They probably would have had to use lethal force in that situation."

With advanced anti-terrorist technology and special permission from the office of the Attorney General, Victoria police don't have to wait until the 24th century for effective weaponry intended to stop a violent subject with less risk of killing them. Similar to Spock and Kirk's phasers-on-stun approach, they can shoot a subject with less risk of seriously injuring them than if they had to draw a gun. The police are testing two new Taser units (short for Tom A. Swift Electric Rifle, its inventor) similar to ones already used by many American policing agencies to detain potentially hostile individuals without causing them bodily harm.

Attention from across the country is focused on Victoria's proposed six-month Taser test period that ends in June 1999. According to Laur, the officer overseeing the test, other departments and agencies across the country may follow Victoria and put the Taser into general use if the test is a success. Laur suggests that the units are being tested in Victoria because the local police and its administration are one of the most progressive in the country. In the six incidents the Taser has been used in Victoria, all have ended without injury. In two of these incidents the sight of the unit alone was enough to calm the individual, and the officers didn't have to fire the barbs.

But Terence Allen, a specialist in forensic pathology who served as deputy medical examiner for both the Los Angeles and San Francisco coroners' offices, has a more grim view of the "non-lethal" weapon. "The problem is when it starts getting used in less than critical situations," said Allen. "In L.A. they'll shoot you for reaching for your wal People need to realize that this isn't 100 per cent safe, and it doesn't have a very go track record. As pathologists, we should warn law-enforcement agencies that the Ta can cause death."

Laur, who has been shot with a Taser himself, calls the weapon extreme humane, as it doesn't cause the subject any extended pain. He likens the experience getting a shock while changing the spark plugs on your lawnmower. Laur estimates th the Taser has been employed by over 350 policing agencies in the U.S. since the 197

According to Steve Tuttle of Taser International, the company responsible manufacturing and marketing Tasers for private use in the U.S., the weapon's inven created the weapon in the late 1960s to be used against airplane terrorists.

"The Taser was perfect for such circumstances as the probes that are fired a not lethal and will not penetrate the hull of an airplane," said Tuttle. This prevented extremely dangerous situation should a bullet pierce the skin of the plane and depr surize it.

Tuttle explains why police would be particularly interested in the weapo "[The Taser] reduces the injuries to both suspects and officers alike," said Tuttle. "T remaining options are fists, blunt instruments, chemical sprays—which are very effe tive, but since they use pain to stop individuals, [drug] users can overcome the pain and swarm tactics, resulting in potential injuries for all involved."

Tuttle also suggests that the Taser has significantly reduced injuries in U. prisons where pepper spray is commonly used in removing uncooperative and viole prisoners from their cells.

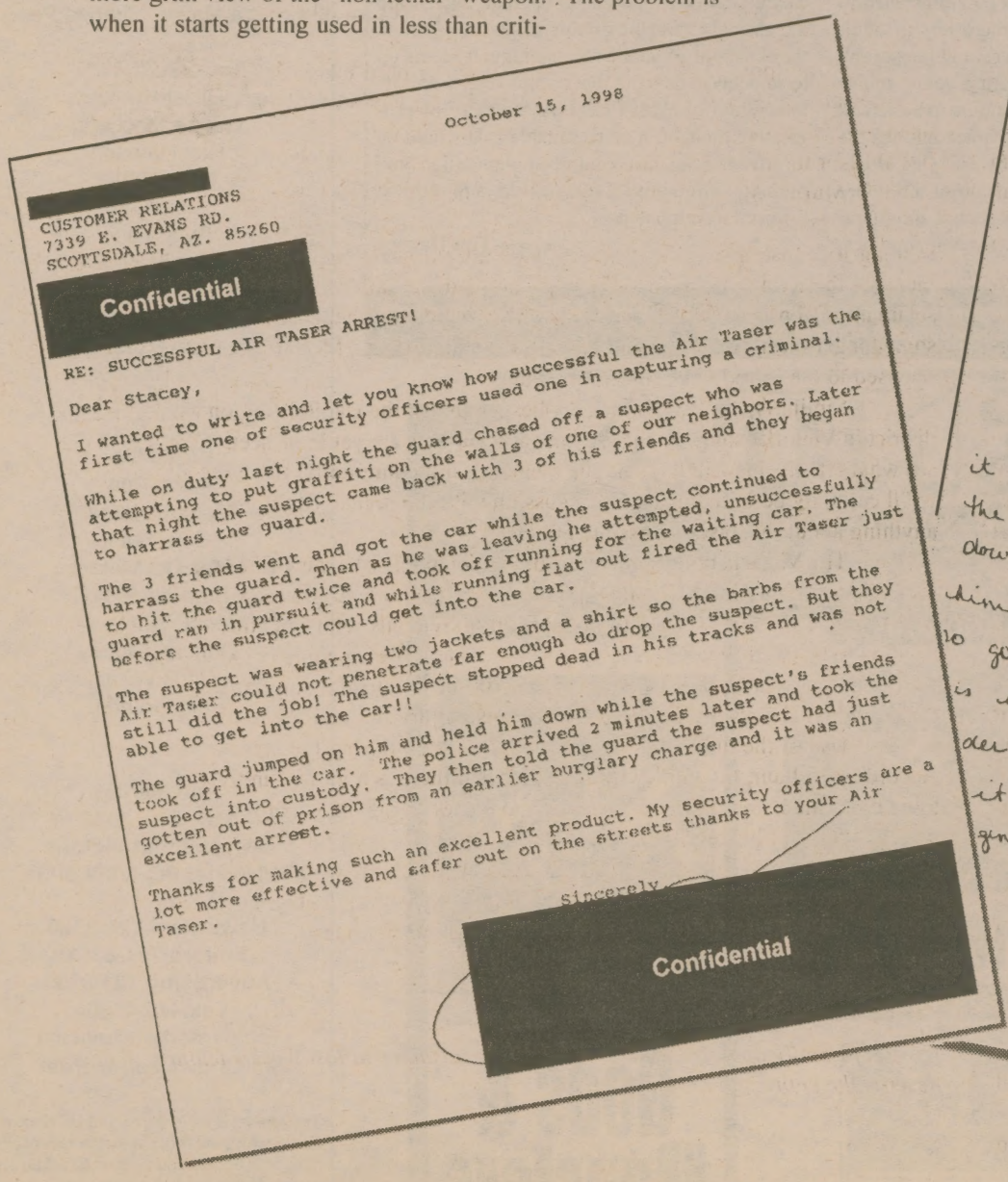
"[Pepper spray] drifts to other cells, contaminates the air conditioning a requires cleanup," said Tuttle. "Meanwhile you have an inmate who is not real pleas and is going to have burning lungs and eyes, with lots of salivation for 30 minutes an hour or more."

But shoot the inmate with a Taser and cuff them while they are stunned, a they recover in a moment without injury or incident. Another advantage to the Tas over other force options is that it doesn't rely on pain to be effective. The Taser will st take down a subject under the influence of drugs or having a psychiatric episode wh isn't responding to pain.

According to Tuttle, the concept of the original inventor's dream expande when he realized the new weapon's potential. He believed he could create powerful self-defense tool for law enforcement and public us

Now, according to Taser Internationa there are 60,000 Tase owned b pri vat indi vidua for pe sona self defense the U.S American can order $250 U Taser un complet with a prac tice target an free fann pack—"grea for carrying (th weapon) whil jogging or bik ing," according t the catalogue– right off the com pany's internet si with the option o black or "sports ye low" handles. For couple hundred do lars more, you ca buy a unit fitted with laser sight.

It's illegal fo the public to own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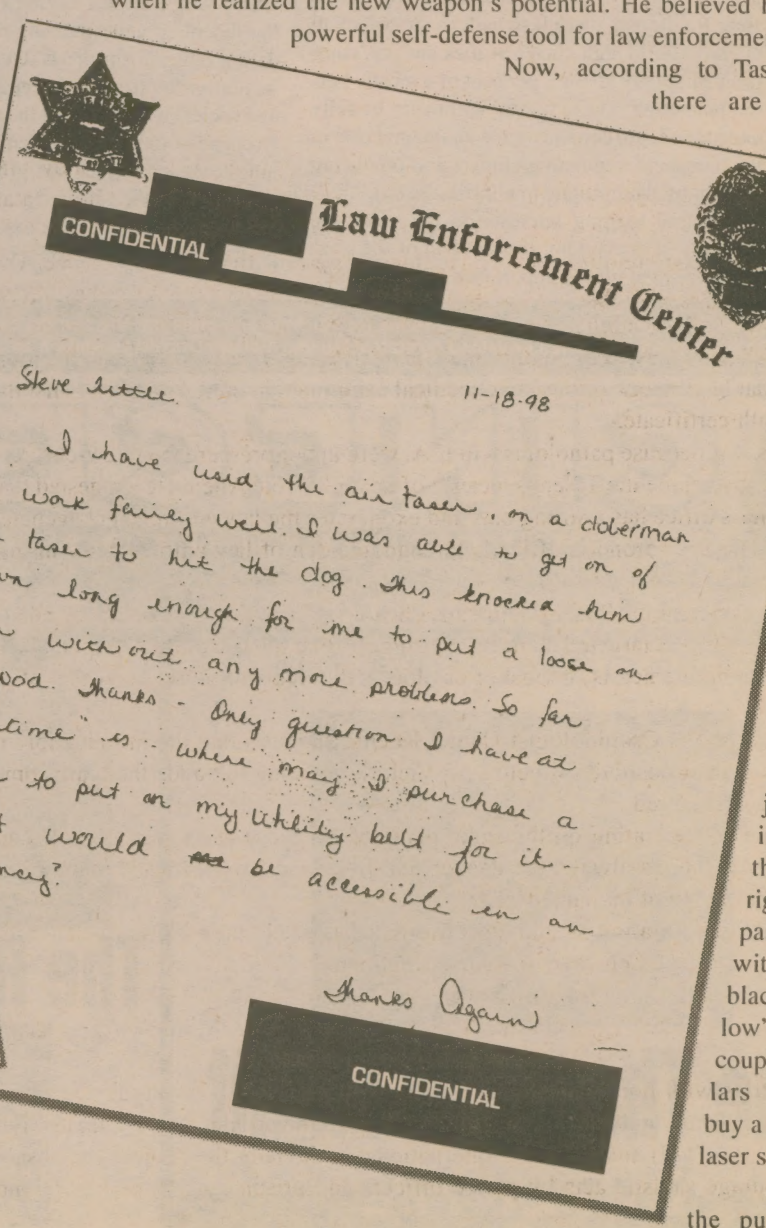
RE: SUCCESSFUL AIR TASER ARREST!
Dear Stacey,
I wanted to write and let you know how successful the Air Taser was the first time one of security officers used one in capturing a criminal.
While on duty last night the guard chased off a suspect who was attempting to put graffiti on the walls of one of our neighbors. Later that night the suspect came back with 3 of his friends and they began to harrass the guard.
The 3 friends went and got the car while the suspect continued to harrass the guard. Then as he was leaving he attempted, unsuccessfully to hit the guard twice and took off running for the waiting car. The guard ran in pursuit and while running flat out fired the Air Taser just before the suspect could get into the car.
The suspect was wearing two jackets and a shirt so the barbs from the Air Taser could not penetrate far enough do drop the suspect. But they still did the job! The suspect stopped dead in his tracks and was not able to get into the car!!
The guard jumped on him and held him down while the suspect's friends took off in the car. The police arrived 2 minutes later and took the suspect into custody. They then told the guard the suspect had just gotten out of prison from an earlier burglary charge and it was an excellent arrest.
Thanks for making such an excellent product. My security officers are a lot more effective and safer out on the streets thanks to your Air Taser.
Sincerely
Confidential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Law Enforcement Center
Steve Tuttle
11-18-98
I have used the air taser on a doberman it work fairey well. I was able to get on of the taser to hit the dog. this knocked him down long enough for me to put a loose on him without any more problems. So far so good. thanks - Only question I have at is time is - where may I purchase a der to put on my utility belt for it. it would be accessible in an ginecy?
Thanks Again
CONFIDENTIAL

n or Menace

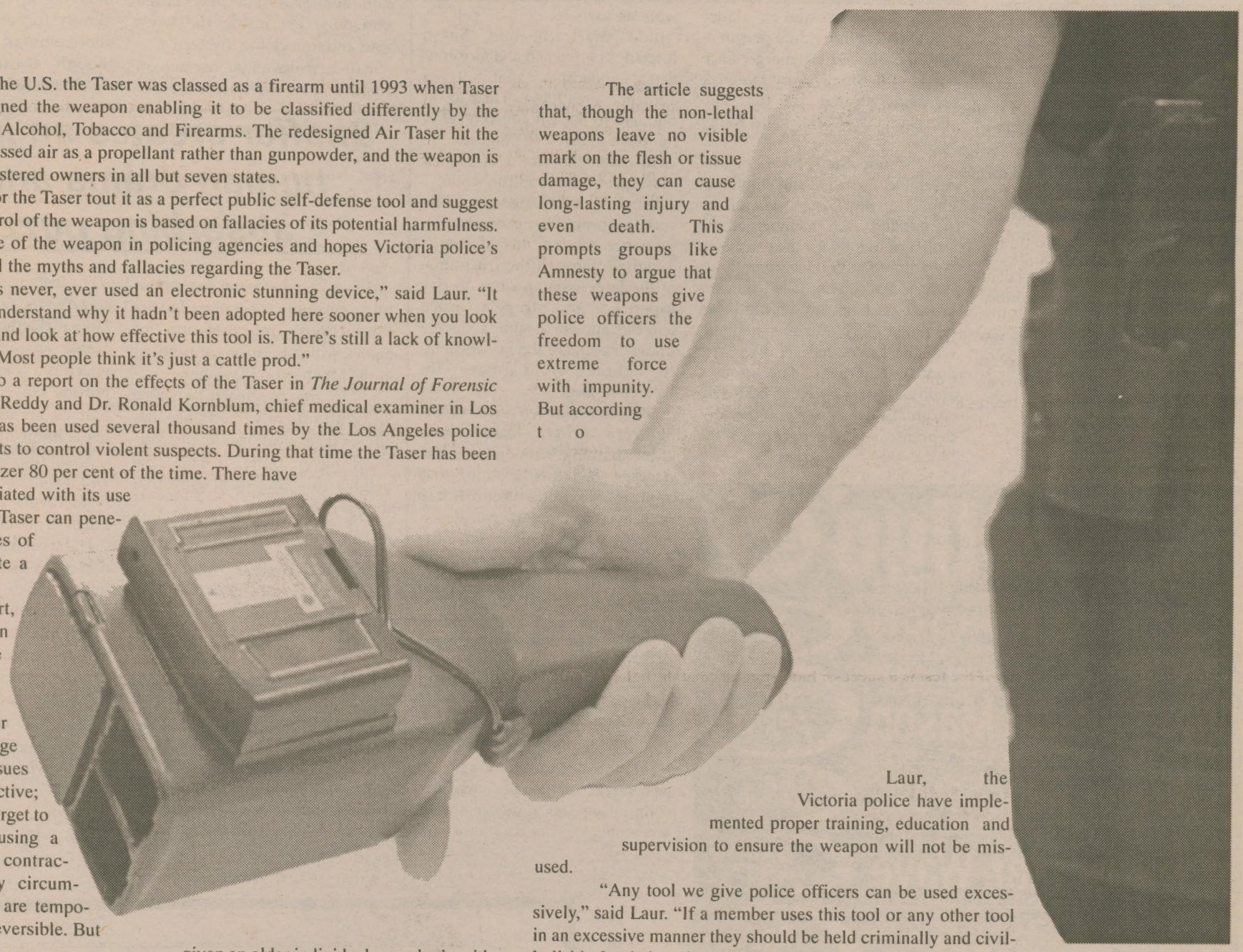
by Darren Stewart

Taser in Canada. In the U.S. the Taser was classed as a firearm until 1993 when Taser International redesigned the weapon enabling it to be classified differently by the American Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The redesigned Air Taser hit the market using compressed air as a propellant rather than gunpowder, and the weapon is now available to registered owners in all but seven states.

Lobbyists for the Taser tout it as a perfect public self-defense tool and suggest that government control of the weapon is based on fallacies of its potential harmfulness. Laur supports the use of the weapon in policing agencies and hopes Victoria police's test period will dispel the myths and fallacies regarding the Taser.

"Canada has never, ever used an electronic stunning device," said Laur. "It was hard for me to understand why it hadn't been adopted here sooner when you look to the United States and look at how effective this tool is. There's still a lack of knowledge surrounding it. Most people think it's just a cattle prod."

According to a report on the effects of the Taser in *The Journal of Forensic Sciences* by Dr. Sara Reddy and Dr. Ronald Kornblum, chief medical examiner in Los Angeles, the Taser has been used several thousand times by the Los Angeles police department in attempts to control violent suspects. During that time the Taser has been an effective immobilizer 80 per cent of the time. There have been 16 deaths associated with its use in L.A. County. The Taser can penetrate up to two inches of clothing and penetrate a bulletproof vest.



The report, which Laur read when he researched the Taser's potential for use in Victoria, explains that the Taser doesn't rely on damage or destruction of tissues or organs to be effective; rather, it knocks the target to the ground after causing a generalized muscle contraction. Under ordinary circumstances, these effects are temporary and completely reversible. But given an older individual, somebody with heart trouble, or somebody weakened by excessive drug use, the weapon can be fatal. Included with the report were accounts of volunteer targets that described the experience as painful and who required several minutes to recover from the experience. The electrical current generated by the Taser is not lethal when the weapon is used as directed on an average healthy adult.

But Allen suggested the report may be misleading. In a 1991 letter to the journal he noted that he was one of only two medical examiners in the L.A. office to list the Taser on a death certificate.

"This was because pathologists in L.A. were under pressure from law-enforcement agencies to exclude the Taser as a cause of death," wrote Allen. He suggested that the L.A. coroner's office has a strong bias and exonerates the law enforcement agencies of that city. "The LA coroner's office is the handmaiden of law enforcement [in that city,]" he said.

Allen says that the Taser could cause heart defibrillation depending on where the two probes strike the targeted subject. He suggests that the use of this weapon could have dire effects on the hearts of weaker or older individuals or those under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

UVic Criminologist Daniel Koenig suggests that the introduction of this weapon will be a positive influence on Victoria policing but adds there are some negatives to be considered.

"Police are operating on the same plane of existence as the rest of us," suggests Koenig. "So there's always the danger that [the Taser] will be used inappropriately. We're talking about humans here."

The U.S. exportation of stun guns was listed as one of the top 10 censored articles of 1997 by Project Censored, an annual nationwide media research project that casts a revealing spotlight on relevant issues that don't make the news.

The article, titled "Shock Value: U.S. Stun Devices Pose Human-Rights Risk" by Anne-Marie Cusac, suggests that the potential to misuse these weapons often provided to countries with poor human-rights records ranks the U.S. as the leading producer and seller of instruments of torture. According to the article, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Amnesty International both claim the devices are unsafe and may encourage sadistic acts by police officers and prison guards, both here and abroad.

The article suggests that, though the non-lethal weapons leave no visible mark on the flesh or tissue damage, they can cause long-lasting injury and even death. This prompts groups like Amnesty to argue that these weapons give police officers the freedom to use extreme force with impunity. But according to Laur, the Victoria police have implemented proper training, education and supervision to ensure the weapon will not be misused.

"Any tool we give police officers can be used excessively," said Laur. "If a member uses this tool or any other tool in an excessive manner they should be held criminally and civilly liable for their actions. I can't emphasize that enough."

Murray Mollard, policy director for the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, suggests that their only concern regarding the Taser will be to ensure that there's adequate training for those using it and an accountability process each time it gets used. "And there are these things in terms of citizen complaints," said Mollard. "And the police can set up internal procedures for reporting on the incidents whenever it gets used." Without some longer-term experience in knowing its major effects, Mollard sees no reason to be opposed to the introduction of the weapon.

Similarly, Andrew Hume, spokesperson for the Capital Region Mental Health district in Victoria, suggests that any negative effects are yet to be seen. "We'll wait and see what effects this will have on the mental health community. If we see any negatives we'll certainly be initiating some discussion with the police. Right now we don't know anything about the Taser's possible effects."

The Victoria police are aware of the potential risks the Taser poses and feel the pros of its introduction will outweigh the cons. "You've got to put this in perspective," said Laur. "This unit is going to be used on individuals who're extremely violent and needing to be controlled. Prior to the use of this tool these people could get shot or seriously injured by a baton strike. Nothing's 100 per cent safe. Anything used to control an individual always has the potential to cause injury or death."

Use of the units will be under strict control during the six-month test period. According to Laur, the units will be used when there is a violent individual that needs to be controlled, and it's up to the road supervisor to decide when it will be used.

"Our ultimate goal as a police officer is to solve by voluntary compliance," said Laur. "When we have to physically control somebody who doesn't want to be controlled it gets ugly real quick, and there's no easy way to control those people. We're looking to technology to give us a hand, but we have to understand that technology has its limitations. It's not the cure-all."

Darren Stewart is a UVic English student in the Professional Writing program. The Martlet *formally apologizes to Darren for the mistakes in last week's feature. Readers deserve the entire story. Enjoy.*

Big Dance delights in big way

by Kathryn Saunders

The performing group for Large People Society performed to a sold-out audience at the Herald Street Centre for the Performing Arts Saturday, but it wasn't the lights or the music that made this performance special. It was the honesty and courage of each dancer that led to the success of this performance.

I have never experienced a modern dance performance that parallels Big Dance. The artists beautifully and gracefully performed the experience of what it means to be a large woman in modern western society. All of the dances interwove the struggle faced by large women to "fit" in to a society in which the media constructs a thin, waif-like body ideal.

I disagree wholeheartedly with Lynda Raino's introduction of these dancers as an assault on our eyes. A feast, perhaps, but an assault has never been so pleasurable. Raino should learn not to introduce these dancers as an exception but to let their talent speak for itself as truly exceptional.

Size has nothing to do with the enormous talent of these dancers. This unique dance ensemble has succeeded where few have dared to before.

Martlet photo by Christina Harris

They have created a dance troupe where individual personalities are allowed to emerge. Each one is individually very talented, as demonstrated by the solo efforts of Tarryl Atkins and Kathy Schele.

Through the power of the ensemble the visual and emotional impact of Big Dance was felt by all, forcing each member of the audience to long for the soloists to be reunited with the ensemble.

As a collective, these dancers kicked ass over any boring ballet or pretentious attempts at modern. Big Dance has its own style and togetherness. The group's ability to work together, both synchronistically and emotionally, demonstrates the beauty of the work as a whole.

Jude Marlearu and Susan Ritchings performed a dance entitled "Landscapes" that left the audience breathless. Their commitment to the emotional level of the piece allowed the audience to escape into the world of limited movement for just a little while.

Terryl Atkins treated the audience to a beautifully executed performance entitled "My Memory," a journey through the frustration of the large woman's day to day experience and struggle, which left the audience with a deeper understanding of the inaccessibility of the world-at-large for women-at-large.

The piece that left most of the audience in tears was "Moonbathing," in which the dancers shed their clothing and appeared in nude-coloured leotards, naked before the world.

This dance conveyed the warmth and support and honesty of the dancers, allowing themselves to be bathed and warmed by each other in a dance that entwined body and soul. Imagine the audience's delight at the beauty of a circle of gorgeous naked creatures bearing their souls under the lights. As the circle whirled around, each dancer breathed a line to the audience inviting them to witness the dancer's desires, enrapturing the audience in the awesome power of the moment.

Peter Shaffer's *Equus*: journey through sex, religion and youth

Equus
dir: Ian Case
by David Schumann

Peter Shaffer's *Equus* (pronounced Eck-wus) is a complex and thoughtful play about sex, religion and youth.

Equus is an intense journey into two minds—a troubled young boy whose life has been forever altered by his mysterious relationship with horses, and a psychiatrist who must get inside the boy's head and unlock the mystery.

Shaffer creates an intense human drama and an absorbing puzzle.

Shaffer creates an intense human drama and an absorbing puzzle.

However, what is not so successful or engaging is Giggling Iguana Productions' interpretation of *Equus*, which is currently running at the McPherson Playhouse.

Set in the psychiatrist's office and with a slightly tilted stage that allows us to peak inside, this version never quite reaches the heights in acting or staging that the play calls for.

Part of the problem is that the young boy, Alan Strang, is such a complex character, and actor Norm Owen just doesn't seem to have the range.

He does convey a lot of Alan's pain and confusion in the second act, but it is the much tougher and subtler first act where he falters. It is a risky performance, to be sure, but one feels while watching it that he could have gone much deeper into the character.

Ian Case, who also directed, stands out as the psychiatrist, Martin Dysart.

What at first seems like a stiff performance quickly reveals itself to be as complex as the character deserves to be.

Case internalizes most of Dysart's pain and shows us a man who is questioning his profession while getting increasingly drawn into the boy's life and past.

The lighting design, by Adam Wilkinson, deserves special mention because it helps to draw us into Alan's world so much that I almost forgot about the play's shortcomings. Not completely, though, because they are too noticeable to let go.

For instance, the rest of the cast contributes nothing to the play. They make their potentially memorable characters anything but, which is a shame because the supporting players, especially Alan's parents, are integral to helping us get to know him.

Also, the staging is awkward and inconsistent.

However, this production of *Equus* is not entirely unsuccessful.

The second act is quite powerful, and the two lead actors have a believable chemistry.

It all could have added up to so much more though. It could have been a truly memorable theatre-going experience instead of just an adequate one.

Equus *is playing at the McPherson Theatre until April 17. Call 386-6121 for ticket information.*

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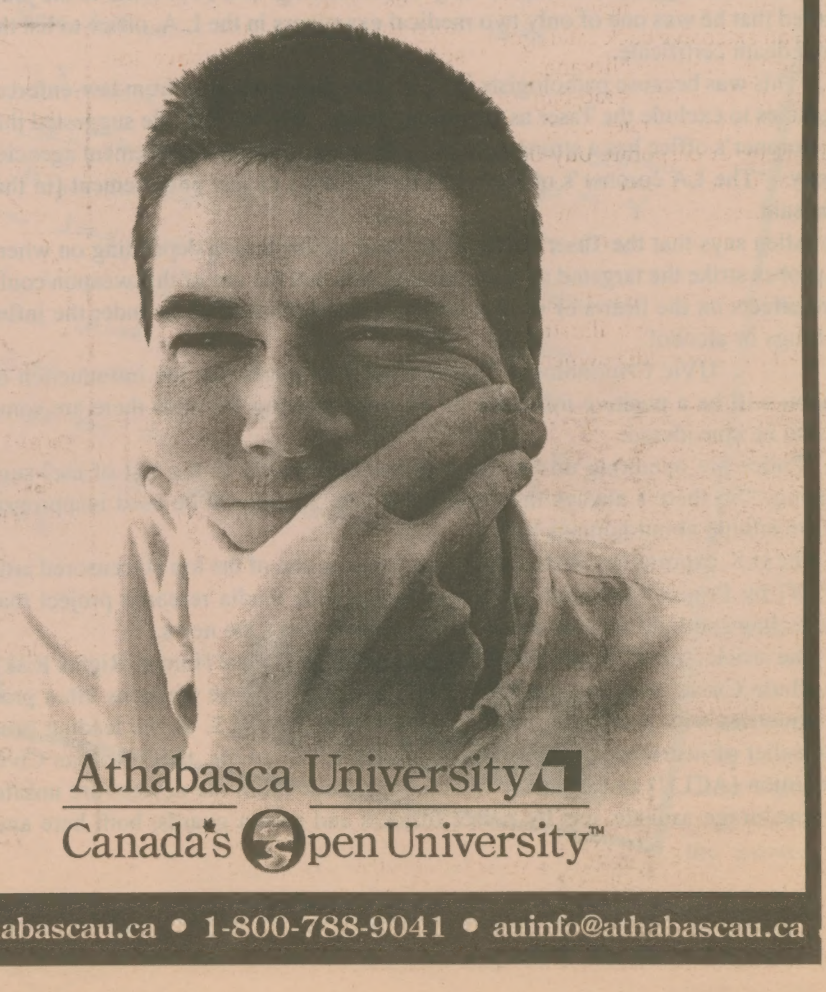
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Record companies eaten alive by corporations!

by Jason Kano Yamashita
S.F.U. Peak

Ever wonder if eventually one corporation will own all that there is to own?

These things seem pretty abstract sometimes—corporate buy-outs are so far from our day-to-day lives. But they do have an impact on us.

For instance, if you buy CDs, just like every other lost soul meandering through academic life, chances are damn good that you've bought a CD from the new Universal Music Group (Aqua, Erykah Badu, Chumbawumba, Nine Inch Nails, No Doubt, Shania Twain, U2, etc.)

This time last year, six major labels dominated the market for recorded music. Each of these was a massive corporation with smaller labels underneath it. The smaller labels were organized as separate units, usually to allow them to specialize in certain types of music or regions.

The major labels distributed the albums for their wee offspring, a process which gave them a chunk of money to throw on the pile.

It's not exactly common to see a big Canadian corporation swallow an American rival, but that's what Seagrams did last June.

Remember Seagrams, provider of fine spirits and wines? Well, their involvement in your life now goes further than that hazy night at the pub last Thursday.

After selling off their share of Time-Warner for close to $2 billion, Seagrams purchased PolyGram Records through its Universal label.

Seagrams reportedly paid about $10.4 billion in cash and shares to Philips Electronics for PolyGram.

Think about that, it's a big chunk of cash. Kind of makes your $25,000 student debt load seem paltry, no?

The new Universal Music Group (UMG) formed from the two major labels is a massive one. It's the dominant force in terms of market share in North America, Europe, Australia, Latin America and Asia (except Japan). It has 23 per cent of the global market and 25 per cent of the U.S. market. It represents hundreds of artists from Counting Crows and Live to Elton John and Vince Gill. It also has a bunch of top-selling international artists you've never heard of and an extensive back catalogue from Buddy Holly to Nirvana.

There is a whole grab-bag of interesting controversies here.

The issue of corporate buy-outs is a hot topic in and of itself—more interesting yet when analyzed in terms of media concentration.

Critics from Ben Bagdikian to Noam Chomsky have illustrated the need to view media ownership as a distinct sort of creature, due to the profound effects of the news and arts media on our thinking.

Another issue is the conflict between art and profits. It is true that at every level of performance, musicians have to compromise to some extent. The bottom line matters—club owners want the bands that sell more beer, fans (generally) want CDs that aren't insanely self-indulgent. That is pretty much how things go for musicians past the jam-in-Joe's-garage level.

Still, there is something creepy about the major labels and especially about UMG's approach to all this.

Normally corporations acquire other corporations because they think they can improve the purchased companies' efficiency through better management, layoffs, expectation of improved markets, or such.

UMG believes that efficiency can be improved by trimming the excess fat from its combined Universal-Polygram operations.

If each of the labels has a subsidiary label in the same city, say, Island and A&M in New York, UMG will bring in severe cuts to marketing, distribution, legal and other departments that overlap.

Total jobs to be cut are still unknown, but company estimates are in the thousands worldwide.

An issue that affects us more directly is UMG's plan to cut artists.

That's right, a bunch of lazy slack-ass musicians haven't been earning quite the profits needed to keep poor old UMG's money bin sufficiently topped up.

The plan is to cut dozens of artists deemed less commercially viable and to focus efforts on marketing the remaining acts.

But making music a business to the exclusion of music is a twisted sort of logic. If the company only advertises the biggest acts, how will new acts be developed?

Cutting dozens of artists also hurts the consumer because it cuts down on available choices.

Most people don't have too much trouble finding out about Cardigans or Wallflowers albums if they are so inclined, but what about smaller acts?

Some of these acts can hook up with smaller labels without the distribution network of UMG, and that has good and bad implications for the musicians. Generally speaking, small labels move less units but pay more per CD and allow more artistic input.

At some point in time, all these labels were started by people who were musicians or music-lovers hoping to increase exposure for their favorite acts. Is that still the case?

Urban art exhibition

by Miranda Post

If you're walking through Fernwood this weekend and smell spray paint fumes, don't call the cops. The fumes will likely be wafting from a totally legit event behind Fernwood Community Centre, where some of Victoria's veteran graffiti artists will showcase and share their talents with local teens.

The first ever Urban Art Exhibition and Workshop this Saturday will consist of painting, learning, discussing and listening, not to mention some eats and beats. Graffiti, a mural-like urban-based art form, and tagging, the random scrawling of one's tag or nickname on public property, has been looked upon as a problem in Victoria.

"I see [graffiti] as a curiosity, not a malicious thing. It's something that [youth] need to do," said Dane Roberts. The exhibition and workshop coordinator.

Roberts has seen a lot of graffiti painted over on the outer walls of James Bay and Fernwood Community Centres in the past two years.

"The thing with teenagers is that a lot of their interests are deemed 'risky' by government programs," said Roberts, "Kids like graffiti because it has a character and vibrance that goes against the norm."

Graffiti is usually seen as vandalism, not an art form, said Roberts. Organizing "risky" events like the Urban Art Exhibition and Workshop is a way of addressing the problem concerning vandalism, and might help curb quasi-bombing and tagging and develop an appreciation for graffiti art, said Roberts.

The exhibition and workshop starts at 11 a.m. and continues until 5 p.m. With material donated at discount prices from local businesses like the Do-It Centre, participants will sketch, observe graffiti mural painting by six local graffiti artists and watch videos about the roots of graffiti. Free pizza, some live scratches and break dancing are also scheduled.

The first half of the day will be mostly educational. While the veterans complete their mural pieces, the youth will observe and learn about technique and Victoria's graffiti origins, developments and influences, said Roberts. "It's gonna be a positive thing and will make a good impact," said graffiti artist Hanz Fear.

The graffiti mural will be in the works before the youth get there Saturday morning. The plywood boards the mural is done on will be permanently attached to the back of the centre and will be one of the few 'legal walls' in Victoria. Legal walls are sites where graffiti artists have been granted permission to paint without harassment from police—walls like the Mason Street wall of the Victoria Street Community Association and the back of the Belfry Theatre.

The newly legal wall will be covered with a mixture of lettering and character graffiti. Fear will be working on a classic-animation character circa 1940s.

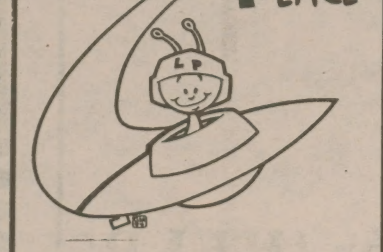
Fear and fellow painters will also give a guided tour of an outside graffiti gallery in Esquimalt during the workshop. After the tour, participants will be able to paint their own pieces back at the Fernwood Community Centre. Most of the youth registering "are already graffiti artists or do graffiti-style sketching," Roberts said.

Fear, who has been painting for 11 years, sees the exhibition and workshop, along with legal walls like the one at Victoria High School, as continuing positive developments for graffiti artists in Victoria. "The community is trying to accept it [graffiti art] because it's so positive compared with the crime here," said Fear.

While the event's goal is to "increase involvement in the Fernwood Community Centre for [artists like Fear and local youth]," Roberts also recognizes that it is going to be a learning process. "If you take a risk and something comes out of it, you can learn from it and adjust what you're going to do next time."

To find out more, call Dane Roberts at the Fernwood Community Centre, 381-1552.

Kids like graffiti because it has a character and vibrance that goes against the norm.



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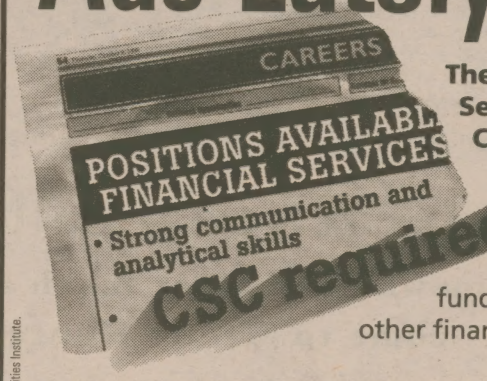

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Looking into the mirror for memories

From women's field hockey to men's rugby, the Martlet *takes another look at some of the brighter moments in sports this past season at UVic*

by Jeff Rea

Some things make little sense.

For example, in a year where every UVic athletic program was in contention for a national championship, only one could close the deal.

It seemed certain that the men's basketball team would bring home the hardware, heading the national polls with only a week in the season remaining. But it clearly wasn't.

The same can be said for the women's team. They met a team they'd already beaten six of seven times this season in the national final and lost.

found a draw against one the top programs in North America, and Kathy Shields was named CIAU women's basketball Coach-of-the-Year.

Here's a glimpse at some of the brighter moments, in the year in review:

October 17, 1998

The women's field hockey team is forced to play UBC and Alberta on the first day of a two-day tournament to close out the Canada West regular season. They Vikes step up and win the afternoon match over the Thunderbirds 2-0 after

Women's basketball: the Vikes and Pandas went into the final weekend racing for the top spot in the West

It felt like destiny for the women's soccer team when Julie Mizuno capped off a corner in the 65th minute of the national championship game and pulled the Vikes to within one of Calgary—but the comeback would end there.

And who could have known that the men's cross country team's string of four national championships would be broken? The team finished third in Waterloo at the final event of their season.

But still, there were successes. The women's cross country side did pick up a banner, and the men's rugby side captured another national title as well.

The women's soccer team dropping the opener to a tough Alberta side. The win—over the eventual national champs—solidifies UVic's wildcard berth at the national finals in Edmonton.

November 14, 1998

The women's soccer side knocks off McGill 3-1 to qualify for the national final in the six-team tournament held at Centennial Field. The Vikes had beaten the top-ranked Western Mustangs 2-0 in their opener the day before and used the second win, over the Quebec school, to reach the championship game for the first time in the school's history. In fact, after six years in the CIAU, it was the first time the Vikes' women even qualified for the Canada West playoffs.

January 10, 1999

The men's basketball team completes the sweep over Lethbridge with a convincing 91-73 win. Lethbridge entered the weekend as the top team in the country and at a near perfect 5-1 mark in season. The win put the Vikes up by one in the race with Alberta for the Canada West regular season title, a lead they never relinquished.

October 24, 1998

The men's soccer team defeat the Alberta Golden Bears 1-0 and take the lead in the Canada West race for the regular-season title. The Vikes win behind a shut-out from keeper Dominic Butcher and a goal from All-Canadian Simon Vickers. The win all but wraps up home field advantage for UVic with two games remaining in the season at Calgary and Lethbridge.

Martlet photo by Ryan Lash

February 19, 1999

The women's basketball team clinches the Canada West regular season title with a 67-61 win over rival Alberta. The Vikes and Pandas went into the final weekend racing for the top spot in the West, and UVic moved to 18-1 overall and 3-0 against Alberta with the six-point win in the first game of the set.

The win confirms UVic's status as one of the most powerful university rugby programs on the continent.

March 20, 1999

The Spring Nationals come to a close at the Commonwealth Pool, and UVic's Rick Say and Phil Weiss are named to the national team. Say, a second-year competitor with the Vikes, swam personal bests in both the 200 and 400-metre freestyles in picking up a bronze and a silver medal respectively. Weiss finished second in the 200-metre butterfly.

March 25, 1999

UVic avenges an early season loss to the University of California Berkeley with a 43-10 trouncing of the American collegiate champions at Wallace Field. The win confirms UVic's status as one of the most powerful university rugby programs on the continent; earlier in the season the Vikes captured the Canadian title.

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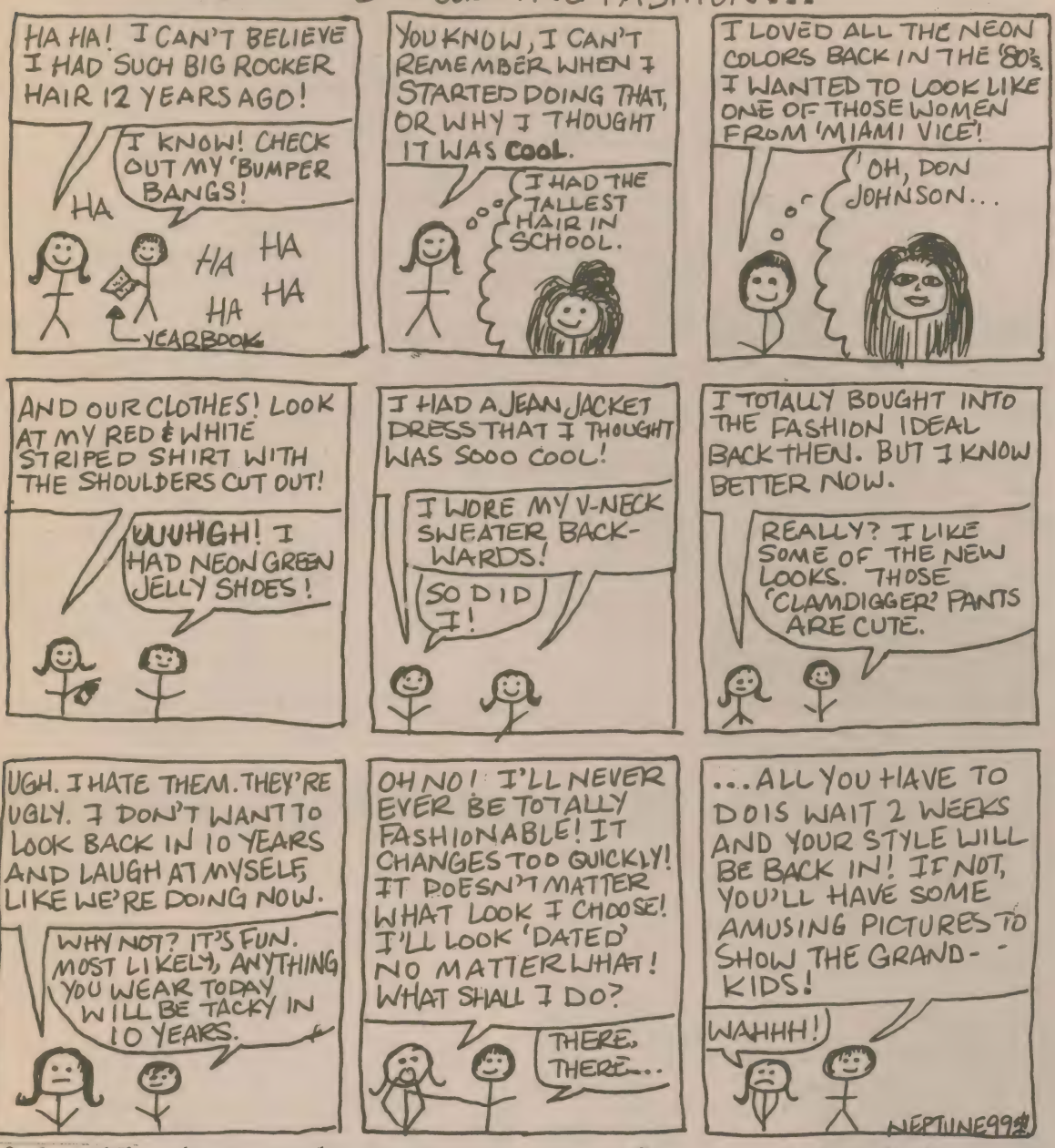
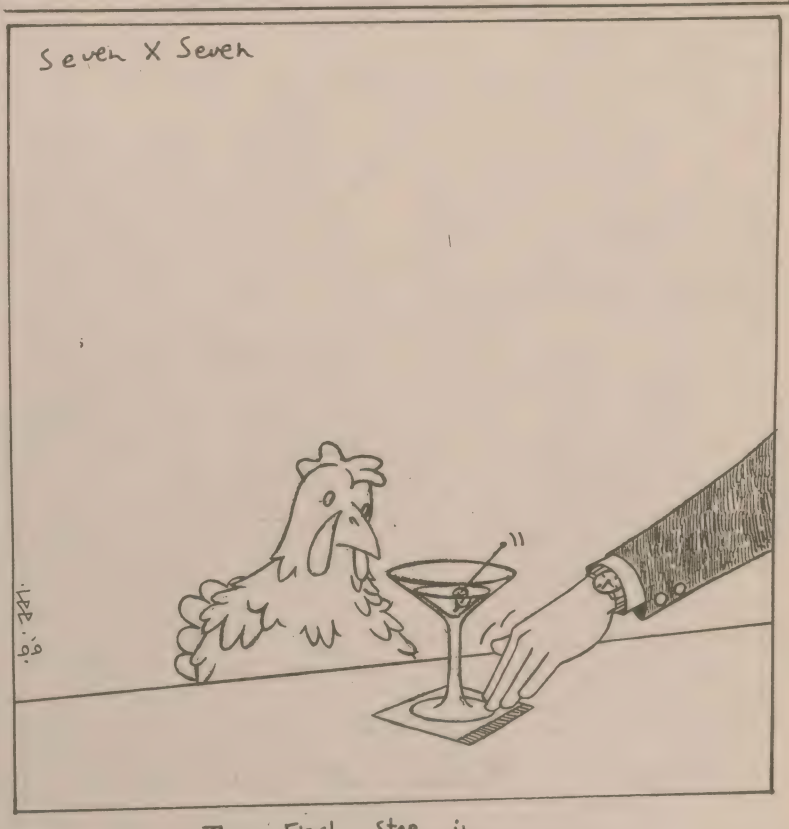
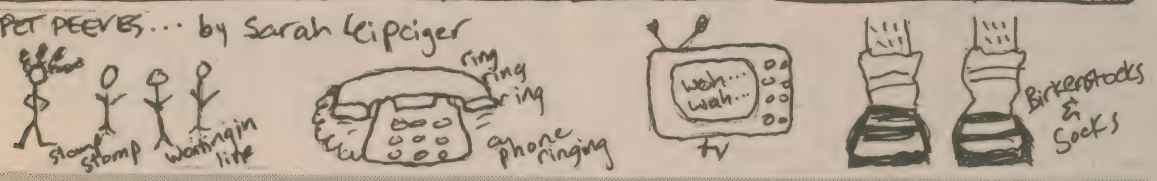

HA HA! I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAD SUCH BIG ROCKER HAIR 12 YEARS AGO!
I KNOW! CHECK OUT MY 'BUMPER BANGS!
HA
HA HA HA HA
YEARBOOK
YOU KNOW, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN I STARTED DOING THAT, OR WHY I THOUGHT IT WAS Cool.
I HAD THE TALLEST HAIR IN SCHOOL.
I LOVED ALL THE NEON COLORS BACK IN THE '80's. I WANTED TO LOOK LIKE ONE OF THOSE WOMEN FROM 'MIAMI VICE'!
'OH, DON JOHNSON...
AND OUR CLOTHES! LOOK AT MY RED & WHITE STRIPED SHIRT WITH THE SHOULDERS CUT OUT!
WUHIGH! I HAD NEON GREEN JELLY SHOES!
I HAD A JEAN JACKET DRESS THAT I THOUGHT WAS SOOO COOL!
I WORE MY V-NECK SWEATER BACK-WARDS!
SO DID I!
I TOTALLY BOUGHT INTO THE FASHION IDEAL BACK THEN. BUT I KNOW BETTER NOW.
REALLY? I LIKE SOME OF THE NEW LOOKS. THOSE 'CLAMDIGGER' PANTS ARE CUTE.
UGH. I HATE THEM. THEY'RE UGLY. I DON'T WANT TO LOOK BACK IN 10 YEARS AND LAUGH AT MYSELF, LIKE WE'RE DOING NOW.
WHY NOT? IT'S FUN. MOST LIKELY, ANYTHING YOU WEAR TODAY WILL BE TACKY IN 10 YEARS.
OH NO! I'LL NEVER EVER BE TOTALLY FASHIONABLE! IT CHANGES TOO QUICKLY! IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT LOOK I CHOOSE! I'LL LOOK 'DATED' NO MATTER WHAT! WHAT SHALL I DO?
THERE, THERE...
...ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WAIT 2 WEEKS AND YOUR STYLE WILL BE BACK IN! IF NOT, YOU'LL HAVE SOME AMUSING PICTURES TO SHOW THE GRAND--KIDS!
WAHHH!
NEPTUNE99

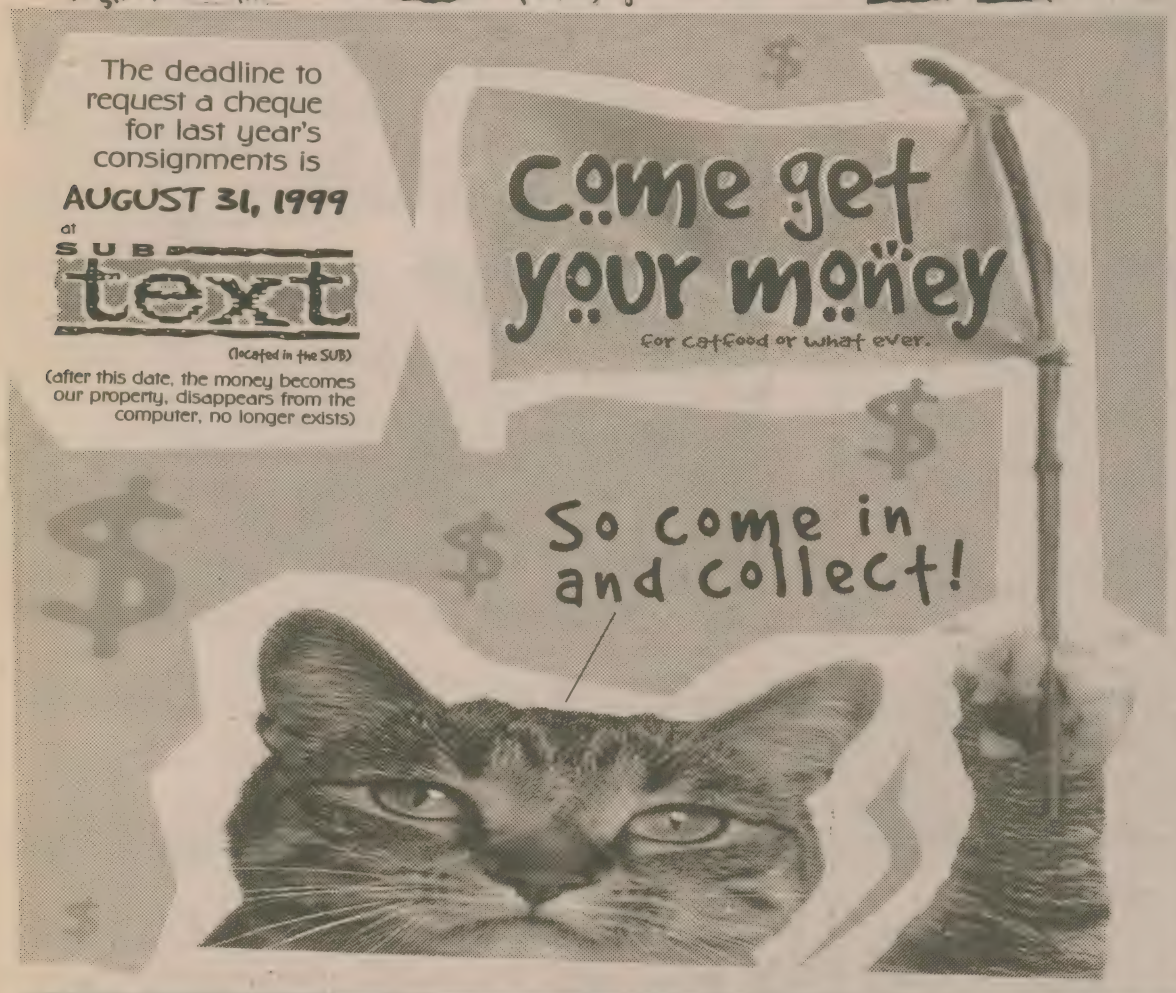
Thank-you to all the artists who contributed to the Martlet Comix Page this year. We'll be back in May. drop your summer ideas off at SUB Boll. GOOD LUCK ON EXAMS.



The First Step in Boning a Chicken.

PET PEEVES... by Sarah Leipciger

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Join the Jewish Students' Association. we get together regularly to socialise, and to explore cultural, political, religious & spiritual issues from a Jewish perspective. we welcome Jews of all backgrounds. For more information, e-mail jewish@uvic.ca call 370-9488, or http://web.uvic.ca/~jewish.

Join the fight to create Canada's first Coast Mountain National Park, "Stoltmann National Park." A multimedia slideshow of 1,000-year-old trees, grizzly bear denning sites and waterfalls. April 14, David Lam Auditorium. $4 for students. Call WCWC 388-9292.

Check out the 1999 Visual Arts Grad Show. Exhibit includes paint, print, photograghy, sculpture & multi-media. Visual Arts Building, April 13-26. Opening night is April 17 at 8p.m.

The Inner Harbour Review is looking for poetry, drama, fiction & non-fiction (up to 2,500 words). Make submissions to the IHR box.in the writing dept. office. Deadline is April 30.

The Canadian Alternative Consultation with UVic PC Youth, Brian Pallister & others–Come out to express your opinions and join our lively discussions to create an alternative to replace the Liberal government. April 15 at 6:30p.m. at McMorran's Beachside Restaurant/House, 5109 Cordova Bay Road. Call Daniel at 472-2388 or dcheung@uvic.ca for more information.

AIDS Vancouver Island is hosting two workshops in April. "Negotiating Desire," a workshop about voicing your own desires, will be held on April 16, & "Safer Sex and STDs," an evening about how STDs are passed between women featuring She's Safe, a collection of short erotic films about safer sex for women, on April 24. Call Katrina at AVI at 384-2366 for more information.

Adult adoptees, birth relatives & adoptive parents seeking reunions. The TRIAD Society for Truth In Adoption is dedicated to creating the opportunity for reuniting families separated by adoption. Next meeting will be May 4 at 7p.m. at Fairfield Community Place, 1330 Fairfield Road. Everyone is welcome. Call 474-2280 for info.

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- **kiya, ablaze with red-hot** lipstick, slithered up to Rex Carrington for a sassy lick. She paused, because she thought she smelled Juliet's Poison on his head. What a fresh &interesting smell. Thank you.
- **Congratulations to Dawne,** Todd & baby girl Cameron Dana Perry. It's great to be an aunt again!!
- **Holland and Christina...**your hard prod ass work all year was very much appreciated! Your friend, Lyndsay
- **Rule #3: If you wouldn't** put your children in the back of the truck, unleased, then don't put your dog(s) back there either. How are they going to hang on, jackass?
- **Craig Battle: thank you, thank** you & thank you for the time you put in. Silly Satana thanks you.

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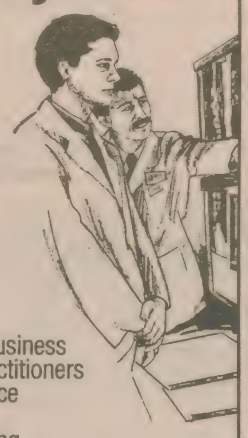

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the martlet spring book review

april 1999

books

read.

INSIDE

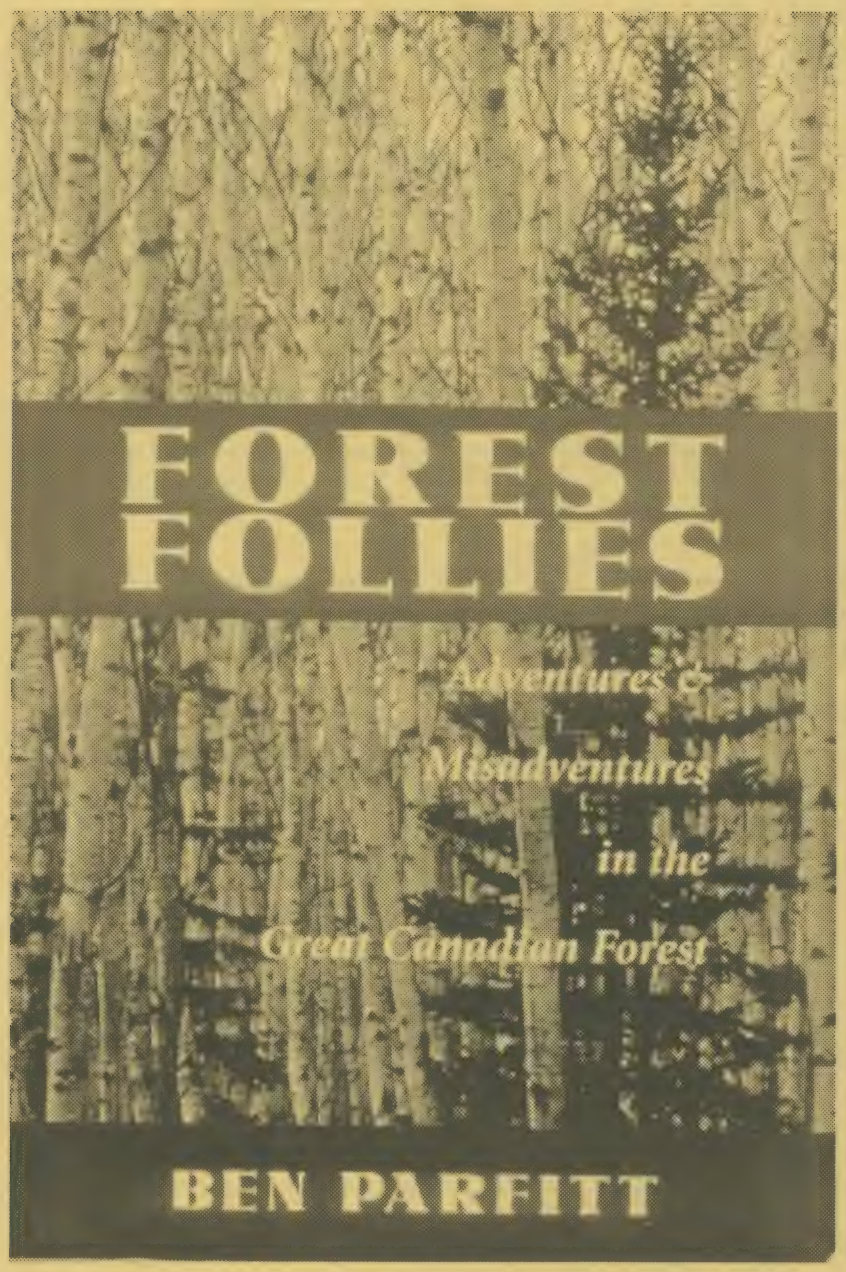
books reviewed:

Taste This
Cameron Tuttle
Bill Gaston
Joni Mitchell
Walter Stewart
Lillian Nattel
Ben Parfitt
Jim Munroe

Forest Follies

Adventures and Misadventures in Great Canadian Forest

Forest Follies: Adventures and Misadventures in the Great Canadian Forest
Ben Parfitt
Harbour Publishing, 1998



Mill closures, unemployed loggers, falling prices.

While the mainstream media is frantically searching out company executives and private-is-better-than-public economists for answers to our tumbling forest economy, Ben Parfitt puts the problem into context and points to examples of communities where people are making a buck without sacrificing the very forest they depend on.

In *Forest Follies: Adventures and Misadventures in the Great Canadian Forest*, Parfitt, a former *Vancouver Sun* journalist, offers a series of essays on forests and forestry, taking the reader from the logging roads of the Queen Charlotte Islands to the tree farms of Alabama.

The book, explains Parfitt in the introduction, is an "attempt to explain why the status quo is no longer acceptable, why more and more communities demand an end to today's rapacious resource extraction."

He begins by reminding us that some of the very species we value—the grizzly bear, the woodland caribou and the spotted owl, to name just a few—are on the verge of disappearing.

He challenges us to think outside the "park" when it comes to looking after our wildlife.

"What we choose to do with our recovering lands will go further to determine the future of the human, plant, fish and wildlife populations we profess to care about than our parks," writes Parfitt.

And what we are doing outside parks is none too comforting.

In clear and colourful essays, Parfitt tackles some complex issues. He explains why land-management strategies are failing wildlife, questions the logic of growing and cutting trees for pulp and low-grade lumber when southern countries can do it faster, and tackles the environmental costs of natural gas production and exporting fresh water.

For solutions to the problems, we don't have to look further than our own backyard.

Parfitt details communities gaining more control over their resources and trying alternatives to conventional forestry and fisheries practices, such as the Central Region Board, which is made up of both native and non-native people and makes decisions about resource use in Clayoquot Sound.

Some of the pieces may be familiar to readers of the *Georgia Straight*, where eight of the 10 essays have been published (they've been updated for the book). Only the first and last essays were written specifically for *Forest Follies*.

Because it is a collection of essays, the book lacks a coherent narrative, which may be jarring to readers just picking it off the shelf—the book jacket doesn't bill it as an essay collection.

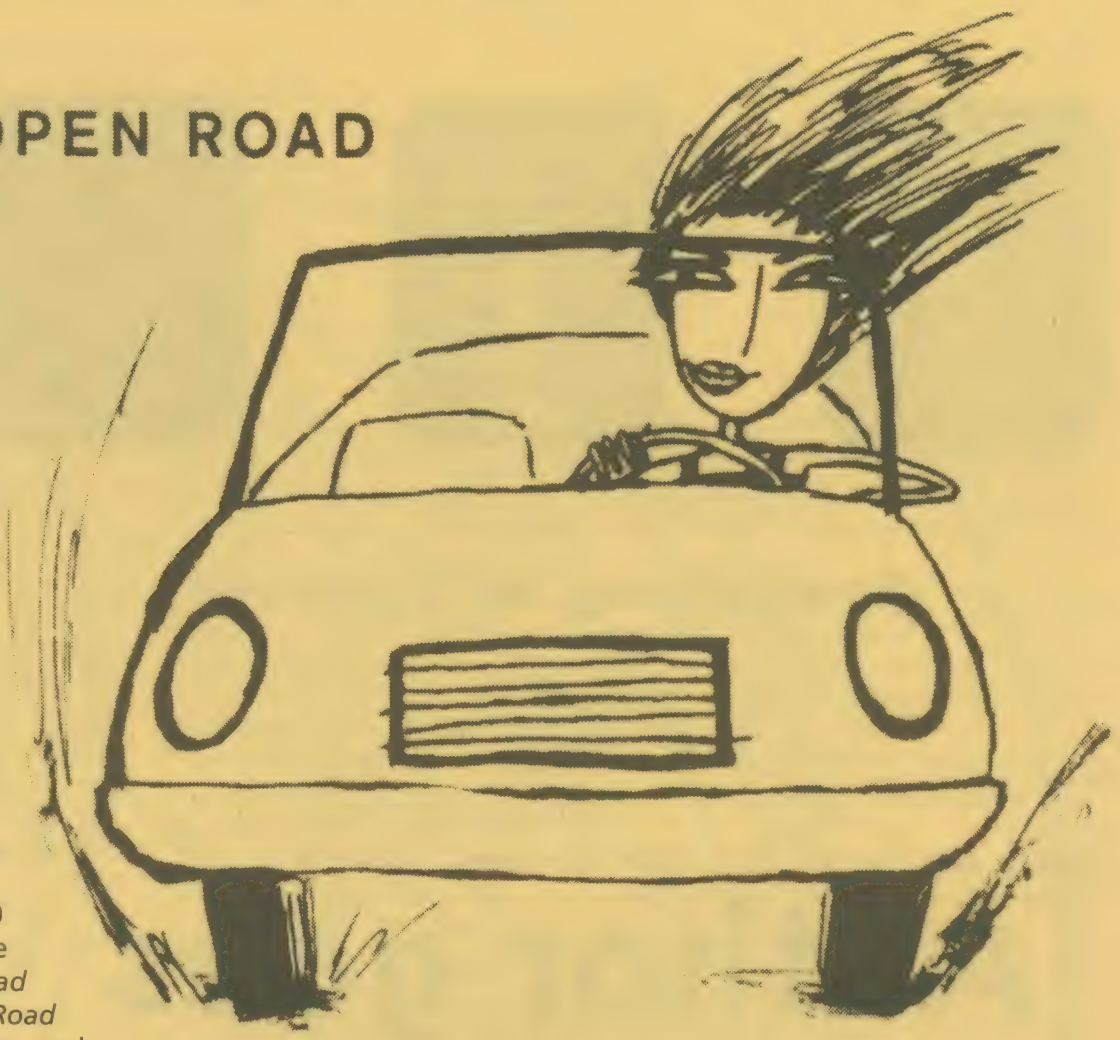
The title is also misleading. Although some of the examples in the book are based outside of B.C. and many of the arguments would apply to forestry in other provinces, this is a book about adventures and misadventures in the great British Columbian forest, not the Canadian forest.

The strength of this book, however, lies in Parfitt's ability to explain complex forestry issues to his audience through the voices and personalities of people who truly care about the forest and the future of their communities—the hunting guide in the Chilcotin who fears for the woodland caribou, the former mill worker in Port Alberni who is training to become a home-care worker, the truck driver on the Queen Charlottes who is concerned that only one in five jobs created by logging his island's forests go to island residents.

Forest Follies asks the right people the right questions about forestry, something the mainstream media hasn't done in a long time.

by Patti Edgar

THE *Bad Girl's Guide* TO THE OPEN ROAD



Cameron Tuttle
Chronicle Books
1999

If the last road trip you took involved a station wagon, your parents and a schedule, then it's time for you to break out of your sedentary life and get on the road. If you can't do that, then read this book and live vicariously through Cameron Tuttle.

Just in time for the 30 year anniversary of the summer of love, *The Bad Girl's Guide to the Open Road* is a celebration of free living and the nomadic lifestyle.

If buying a book about how to be spontaneous sounds a little too hypocritical for you, just remember there are alternate uses for it—Tuttle suggests using the pages as emergency toilet paper.

Although the title would seem to imply that this is only a guide for females, most of the tips are non-gender specific.

The book is full of information from the necessary (how to do basic car repairs) to the silly (an extensive list of extra car-iccular activities—these can be modified for use in classes).

Tuttle gives advice on choices of car music, how to get out of speeding tickets and on the road beauty care (mayonnaise moisturizer, popsicle lipstick).

If you have a secret longing for a self-help book, but the smell of chicken soup for your soul makes you want to puke, read this book. With subjects like "finding your badness," "common breakdowns and how to deal" and "clean is a state of mind," *The Bad Girl's Guide* isn't just a road guide, it's a life manual.

It is also physically one of the most practical books. *The Bad Girl's Guide* has a plastic cover so that it won't get wrecked while you bomb around the countryside. The book also comes with a bumper sticker—an ugly one, but sometimes it's the thought that counts.

The book is funny in places, but sometimes it is too self-conscious and overdone. For example, running along the bottom of every page of the book are reasons to hit the road. It's hard to stay funny for 192 of those.

At $22.95, this is one of those books you can afford to read in the bookstore. It's not a long read, and that's what those couches are there for.

by Käthe Lemon

DISMANTLING THE STATE

Author goes down with the state

Dismantling the State—Downsizing to Disaster
by Walter Stewart
Stoddart

We all know there's something wrong with our country.

Although Canada tops many international rankings, as a collective citizenry we know that something has run amok. Enter Walter Stewart, author extraordinaire (enter sarcasm) who has taken it upon himself to shed some light on the situation.

More than ever, there is a need for literature on government spending. Cuts to research and development, education, Medicare and the justice system should be scrutinized. But this book reads like a first-year political science essay written the night before it's due.

This book unfolds as Stewart's personal commentary on how bad widespread government cuts are for the nation. No shit, Sherlock. I was up for an informative read on national downsizing, but Stewart lacks the writing style to convey the message effectively and hold interest.

Each chapter starts off with an anecdote to lead off the discussion. In the environmental section, the "short" snippet stretches on for three pages, and I'm ready to skim through the rest of the chapter.

By the time Stewart has reached the issue of child poverty, he recalls a faint memory of playing "kick the can." What does this have to do with offering solutions to the problems Canada is currently facing? Strike two.

Stewart suggests that cutbacks are affecting the lives of Canadians nation-wide. Yet he falls into the East-centric narrow-mindedness he criticizes the federal government for in centring on documented cases from Ontario. While he's rifled through archives to back up his arguments, they've been the collections of the Toronto Star, Globe and Mail and Maclean's.

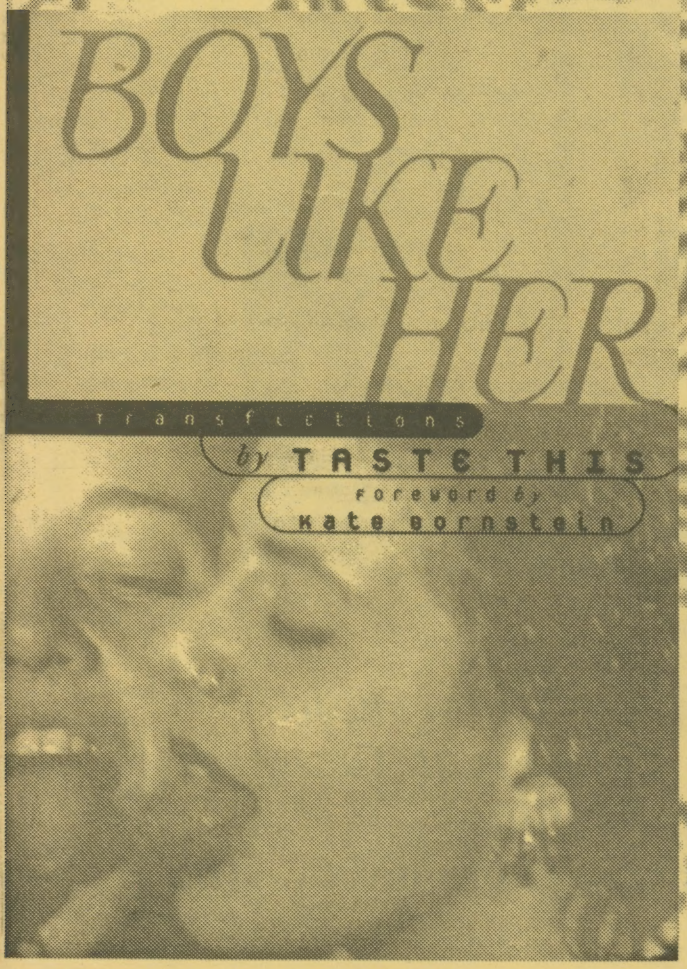
There are many angles that Stewart could have approached this topic from. He has opened his scope too wide, in the attempt to cover the essential evils of government cutbacks in 300 pages.

Stewart has dug up some interesting facts and cushioned them with historical briefs, but has not strung it all together in a useful manner.

by Natasha Marsden

Blurring the line between girl and boy

Boys Like Her: Transfictions
by Taste This
Press Gang Publishers
1998



You know how you're not supposed to judge a book by its cover? Well Boys Like Her looks cool. Lime green, silver, raw yellow energy with a photo of two pierced girls tonguing each other. Geez, I thought. This ain't gonna be about two naked earth lezzies making sweet love in the forest.

Boys Like Her, a compilation of performance, poetry and prose, puts down on paper the sexy, slutty, dirty whoreness of four young queer/transsexual women. The writing is slang-filled and eloquent, dirty and touching, sad and hilarious. They write the way they talk, they write from experience, they write from identity.

Written by a group of four queer women who call themselves Taste This, they "produce and direct their own material, making it up as they go along."

You can sense this in Boys Like Her, where there are no boundaries or no limits to what Taste This has to say, whether they be personal, sexual or political, and always with a sense of fun, or at least drama. The words are both diary-entry style writings as well as lyrical poetry and coming-of-age stories, where the innocence of childhood falls away to the perplexing, structured gender roles little girls and little boys are molded into.

Things I liked about this book were the sweet and goofy musings by Zoë on love lost to someone more girly than she and in "No Bikini," Ivan's six-year-old stint as a topless bikini boy in swimming class: "It was easier not to be afraid of things, like diving boards and cannonballs, when nobody expected you to be afraid."

Boys Like Her is also generously littered with sepia and black and white photography, showing the women in mid-performance or mid-fucking, which is an obvious bonus.

"These stories are true, except the ones we made up," says the intro. The line between fiction and reality is blurred, just as the lines separating girl from boy are, as Taste This guides you through transgendered reflections on life, love and the politics of liberty.

by Lyndsay Sung

Sex is Red
Bill Gaston
Cormorant Books, 1998

Sex sure is read

"With your hand in Satan's Gleaming Guts"

Sex may be red, but Bill Gaston's touch is pure gold.

Gaston's latest collection, *Sex is Red*, delivers 13 new stories from what the *Globe and Mail* labelled "an imagination in overdrive."

The stories range in subject from erroneous youthful tattoos, to a young girl experiencing her first religious epiphany, to a man unable to acquiesce to his wife's demands that he look into her eyes during the instant of orgasm.

The thread that links these subjects is Gaston's uncanny ability to create characters who live and breathe on the page.

In the story "With Your Hands in Satan's Gleaming Guts," a man relates the tale of his obsession to save humanity from a technologically induced social inertia. He embarks on a mission, breaking into houses to sabotage televisions. "How many children have made up new games because of me?" he wonders. "How many friendships begun or revived? How many ageing couples have relearned rummy or whist, or the art of conversation?"

In "The And," a city surveyor named Don ponders the meaning of his existence when an old high school buddy moves back home with his mother after being busted for possession of marijuana seeds and losing his job.

"What exactly did it mean to be out in the world for years and then go back to your mother? There were no words for that sort of failure, though it occurred to Don that everyone knew exactly what it felt like."

From sublime revelation to utter despair, Gaston's characters are, above all else, undeniably human. As Joseph Conrad asserted, all art appeals to the secret wellspring of the responsive human emotion, and Gaston succeeds in doing just that. As one character affirms when he surprises himself by bursting into tears, "Funny how the body knew before the brain that all the pillars were falling."

With humour and grace, Gaston takes the complexities that make humans fascinating and incomprehensible creatures, and renders them understandable.

This is one hell of a book.

by Steve Plaunt

Impossibilist fiction features sex, love and superheroes

This is a story of first love and wannabe superheroes—there's sex, and there's the fight against the evil in society.

For a first novel, Jim Munroe has created a believable story based on an unbelievable premise, a mix he calls "impossiblist fiction."

The protagonist, a Toronto university student named Ryan, just happens to have the ability to turn himself into a fly. He hooks up with Cassandra, the coffee shop waitress he's been crushing on forever, and finds in her a superhero ally who can make things disappear.

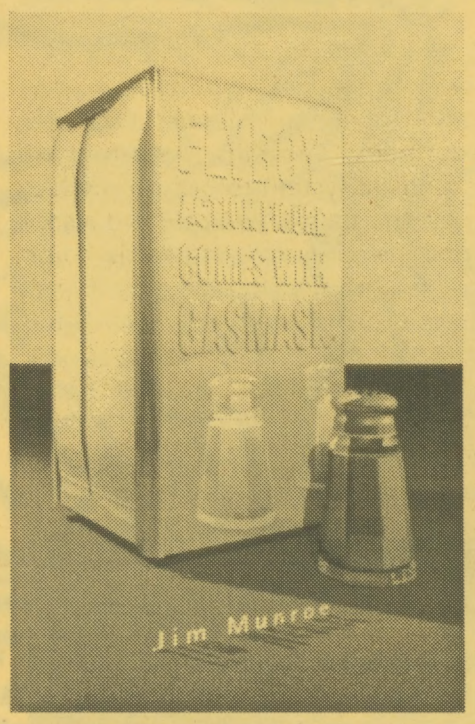
Starting with some culture-jamming billboard alteration à la *Adbusters*, followed by a Take Back the Night march where Cass makes police officers' guns disappear, the duo call themselves the Superheroes for Social Justice and use their powers to raise some anti-establishment hell.

The twentysomething author throws a lot of his own life experience into *Flyboy*. There are digs at the student press (Munroe use to write for the York University paper), mentions of *Adbusters* magazine (he was its managing editor for a year) and Who's Emma (a store in Toronto), as well as some good description of the Toronto punk music scene (Munrow writes for the magazine *Punk Planet*). Munroe has written about what he knows, and for that reason when he writes about zinesters, pot smokers and punk kids it's not clichéed and laughable.

Flyboy is packed with counterculture, and the subtle sci-fi feel of this book makes a good diversion from the obsessive, all-encompassing occupation known as cramming for exams.

Reading this novel will make you think twice about swatting flies with your textbooks when their buzzing distracts you from studying.

by Holland Gidney



Flyboy Action Figure Comes with Gas Mask
Jim Munroe
Harper Flamingo Canada

They may have paved paradise, but you can still have all the words

The Complete Poems and Lyrics
Joni Mitchell
Vintage Canada, 1998

Baby boomers, yuppies, hippies and anti-spice girls can now find themselves in Joni Mitchell's *The Complete Poems and Lyrics*, a warm anthology of lyrics written by the woman Chrissy Hynde calls "a real singer."

Fans of Joni Mitchell will find *The Complete Poems and Lyrics* addictive because it contains the words for every song from Mitchell's 1968 self-titled debut to her most recent release, *Taming the Tiger*.

"We're [Canadian] poets because we're such reminiscent kind of people. My poetry is urbanized and Americanized, but my music is influenced by the prairies," Mitchell once said.

The swaying rhythms of the prairies come out in poems like "Urge for Going": "When the meadow grass is turning brown/Summertime is falling down and winter is closing in/ I had me a man in summertime/ He had summertime colored skin."

Urban American tales of woe found in the song "Turbulent Indigo" reveal themselves in Mitchell's brutal anti-corporate anthem "Sex Kills," which chastises everything from the medical system to gun-toting kids.

Flipping through the pages, you can find a song to match almost any mood. Feeling rage towards commercialism? Then flip to page 56 and sing the lyrics to "Big Yellow Taxi" (They paved paradise/ And put up a parking lot) as loud as you can.

For the more romantic types, there are Mitchell's numerous melodic mournings from *Blue*, like the lyrical renderings of "Little Green" and "Blue".

Mitchell's penchant for social messages evolves throughout *The Complete Poems and Lyrics*, going from blatancy in "Dog Eat Dog" to the childish nostalgia of "Cherokee Louise".

Mitchell doesn't back down in the her latest lyrical release, *Taming the Tiger*, alluding to Blake while cynically analyzing the industry she's been a part of since the 1960s: "As the radio blared so bland/ Every disc/ A poker chip/ Every song a one-night stand."

Whether or not you are a Lady of the Canyon, *The Complete Poems and Lyrics* is a great read for anyone who appreciates soulful lyrical artistry and sincere confessions of love, hate or anger. Joni Mitchell has done all of this in her 20 albums. Now you can sing or read her poetry and lyrics with the eloquent abandon that she has mastered.

by Miranda Post

Tuesday after school
We put our pennies on the rails
And when the train went by
We were jumpin' round like fools
Goin' "Look no heads or tails"
Goin' "Look my lucky prize"

She runs home to her foster dad
He opens up a zipper
And he yanks her to her knees
Oh please be here–please
My friend
Poor Cherokee Louise

(from "Cherokee Louise")

poetry

River Midnight

River Midnight
Lillian Nattel
Knopf Canada

Lilian Nattel is 42 years old but looks much younger. She has a small, pretty face, twinkling eyes (I kid you not, this woman's eyes actually twinkle), and petite, child-like hands that become animated when she gets excited.

And, let's face it, she has a lot to be excited about. Nattel's first novel, The River Midnight, is by all accounts a winner. With Dutch, Italian and German translations already coming off the presses and others waiting in the wings, Nattel looks set to conquer not only Canada and the United States, but Europe as well.

If your family roots are still closely attached to some war-scarred continent across the water you will understand why Nattel wrote this book—of Polish-Jewish origin, Nattel's family history was mostly destroyed, if not by one European war, then another. Blessed with an excellent imagination, a highly-addictive writing style and a lot of research skills, Nattel created an imaginary family out of stories her parents used to tell about their old country.

"I wanted to reinvent my family because it was a mystery," says Nattel, "because I couldn't know who they were. That was a mystery that I grew up with, and it was always one that preyed on me, preyed on my imagination, wondering who they were and how they lived."

Set in Russian-occupied Poland in the 1890s, The River Midnight is the story of the men and women, one of whom is Nattel's 'ancestor', who live in a small shtetl. (A shtetl is a Jewish town if you need visuals, go rent The Fiddler on the Roof). Nattel uses Jewish holidays as benchmarks in a story that she repeats over and over again from different points of view of the villagers. The setting is almost ethereal, using small doses of magic as a natural background to everyday events, and each chapter treats the delights and calamities of the main characters with a healthy dose of gently wry humour.

It was important to Nattel to introduce a dose of realism when creating the story's setting—Yiddish words are used frequently, Polish words are spelled correctly, historical facts and figures are given their proper respect, and the descriptions of the various Jewish ceremonies and rituals are lovingly rendered and expertly explained so that even a goy like myself does not get lost.

"I think it's the authentic detail that makes the world come alive," says Nattel. "How does the reader know that I'm not faking it? Well, I don't know, but readers have responded, so clearly they do have a sense of that realism."

"I think accuracy is more satisfying to the reader," she adds, "because people read to enter another life, both imaginatively but also to learn something about what that other life might really have been like. There were people who once lived in those villages," says Nattel, "and they had a life, and I want to be true to them by writing about it accurately."

Such sentimentalism is a trait one might expect in a novelist, but not a chartered accountant—I was surprised to see a CA diploma on Nattel's wall.

"I did my degree in English [at York University] and then I got a really awful job as an office clerk," says Nattel. "And so I went back to school at night to become a CA—and I didn't know anything about that, I didn't know what accounting was, I just knew that I would be able to be self-employed. I hated working for other people."

The accounting degree paid off in two ways: Nattel could work part-time from home, set her own hours, earn a decent living, and therefore keep on writing. It also taught her the discipline to carry through on long-term projects, such as The River Midnight.

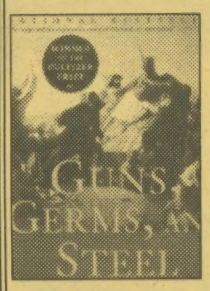
"I had, from the time I was a little kid, thought that I was going to be a writer, so becoming an accountant seemed like a weird thing to do!" laughs Nattel. "I would never date an accountant in university."

Magic, accounting, and realism aside, what makes The River Midnight a worthwhile read (even during exam time) are the three essential ingredients of every gratifying book—solid characters, arresting plot and setting, and a captivating writing style. Nattel has grasped all of these almost perfectly, and will draw you into her world so subtly, so quietly, and so expertly, that you will not even notice until the very last page.

by M. Gosia Bawolska
Varsity

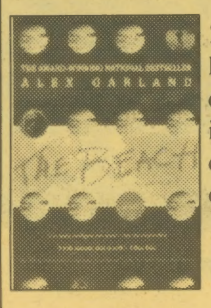
MUNRO'S BOOKS

The end of term looms...time once again to read for enjoyment



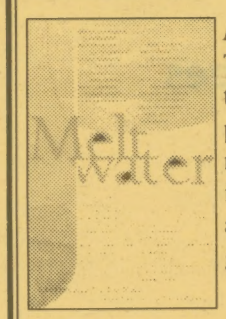
Guns, Germs and Steel by Jared Diamond
A sweeping view of the last 13,000 years, this history of everything and everywhere received rave reviews for its scope and engaging writing.
paperback $19.99

Flyboy Action Figure Comes with Gasmask by Jim Munroe
Quirky, offbeat, humorous and cocky, this is a thoroughly modern novel of today's caffeine-addicted, post-boomer society.
paperback $20.00



The Beach by Alex Garland
High adventure and personal disillusionment propel this riveting and evocative tale of the dark underside of utopian dreams.
paperback $19.00

Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden
This best-selling novel brings to life the story of a geisha and the exotic world she inhabits. An impressive and well-researched first novel.
paperback $17.95



Melt Water
This superb collection of contemporary poetry and prose displays the diverse talents of the many accomplished participants in the Banff Centre for the Arts acclaimed Writing Studio program.
paperback $17.95

The Bad Girl's Guide to the Open Road by Cameron Tuttle.
Exams are over, the sun is shining (maybe). The urge to hit the road in search of adventure is irresistible. Don't leave town without this humorous but indispensable handbook.
paperback $22.95

Downtown at 1108 Government Street. Phone 382-2464.